

Again he adds: "Sir, I have considered the subject a thousand times since I first heard of this intended division, but have not been able to form any reasonable idea of the motive that thus induced the proposition of such a dangerous experiment.—If, at any future period, experience should point it out as expedient for the advantage and safety of Government, or for the general convenience or prosperity of the people, to divide that country, it may then be done with more judgment, from a more certain knowledge of the consequences of such a division. The conveniences that may arise from continuing the Province united under one Legislature are few, and they are well known and understood, the advantages of unanimity, mutual support, and strength, but no man can tell the dangers of a separation. The dangers, however, to be apprehended are political weakness, disunion, animosities, and quarrels."

That it is within the knowledge of several of your Petitioners, that the above Act had hardly become a Law, when the impolicy of the division of the Province of Quebec became apparent to his Majesty's Ministers, as was declared by them to the individual who made the representation from which your Petitioners have now quoted.

Although that, by the wisdom of the imperial Parliament, an Act was passed in 1822, intending to set at rest, at least for the moment, the disputes between the two Provinces in regard to duties; for which end, the power of determining on the share of duties to which Upper Canada may be entitled, is taken out of the Hands of the two Colonial Legislatures and given to Arbitrators; yet, as the very passing of such a Law implies the existence of a very great evil, so your Petitioners are well assured that this remedy, viewed as a permanent measure, would, in its execution, prove a source of endless dispute, dissatisfaction, and jealousy, between the two Provinces:—and as pregnant with the same effects, do the Petitioners regard the depriving of the Legislature of Lower Canada of the power to raise any duties on importations into that Province, without the previous communication of any projected Law for that purpose to the Government of Upper Canada, and the transmission of it to England for the approval of the Government there. The more consideration your Petitioners bestow on the subject, the more confident is their conviction, that, instead of palliative remedies, an effectual and complete remedy should be resorted to; and this can only be found by the union of the Provinces under one Legislature.

That, as British subjects, and persons whose interests are deeply involved in the prosperity of these Provinces, your Petitioners cannot view the present state of affairs and their inevitable result, without the most serious apprehensions. Situated as the Canadas are, with respect to the United States of America, it is the interest of Great Britain to give as rapid a development to the resources of these Provinces as they are capable of, and augment and increase their strength as much as possible, with a view to their continuing a distinct portion of America, secure under British protection, and furnishing Great Britain the means of exercising an important influence over that Country, in such a manner as circumstances may render expedient: in furtherance of this object, it would be obviously fit that a communion of feeling and an identity of political views, with a sense of increased strength and importance, should, as far as can be produced, prevail in the two Provinces: this policy is altogether counteracted by a division, which tends to increase the opposition of the Inhabitants of Lower Canada to the institutions, habits, and feelings, of those of Upper Canada; while the latter, becoming gradually more estranged from their Sister Province, must be gradually and imperceptibly drawn into closer ties of connexion with the adjoining States, whose Inhabitants have the same laws, language, habits, and manners: whereas, by the Union of the Provinces, the present divided parts of the Population would be gradually moulded into one Common Mass, with the same Political views and feelings, ready to act in concert, and to combine their resources for their common defence.

That, from the state of the representation in Lower Canada, a very large body of his Majesty's subjects, amounting it is estimated, to 80,000 souls, of British birth and British descent, are unrepresented in the Legislature, either directly or indirectly. His Majesty's subjects of French descent, having it in their power to exclude, and actually excluding, from the House of assembly all who do not fall into their very views, (which views, whether right or wrong, it is not the present object of your Petitioners to discuss,) and the effect has been, that of a vast number of Emigrants, who of late years have arrived from Great Britain and Ireland, probably not one twentieth part have remained within its limits: the rest have sought protection under English institutions, by settling in Upper Canada or in the United States.

That, by a union of the two Provinces, every British Inhabitant therein would be represented, were some measure at the same to be adopted, to enable the Town-ships to return Members for themselves. And the claims of these Inhabitants of British origin are so strongly built upon justice, that your Petitioners cannot doubt but your Honourable House would see fit to provide for the unrepresented state of the valuable and fertile portions of the Province.

That the Legislature of the Lower Province has for a long time been so much agitated by dissensions, and their deliberations so much engrossed thereby, that Trade, Agricultural Education, and matters of general interest have been neglected: whereas, under an enlightened and efficient legislature, undistracted by partial views and interests, your Petitioners confidently anticipate the rapid advancement of these, together with the improvement of the navigation, and internal means of communication, the establishment of an Insolvent Debtors' Act, of Offices for the Registry of Lands and Mortgages, and other objects so necessary for security in commercial transactions.