

the present form of Government, simply because it is not that free, representative system, with which alone Englishmen can ever be content. They are as desirous for the Union now as they were in 1838; and their reasons remain unaltered with their wishes. There are those, no doubt, among their numbers, who fear that the Union, on the principles now proposed, may fail of securing to the country the substantial advantages, in the hope and expectation of which they became its supporters; and that a local French Canadian "ascendancy" may after all result from it. The fears of this class of men we are bound to treat with respect, however little we may be ourselves disposed to share them. A very brief examination of the real merits of the case, we feel confident, must suffice to satisfy any mind not unreasonably biassed by its own prepossessions, that such fears rest on no solid ground whatever.

Each Province is to return 42 members, and of the 42 from Lower Canada, the British race is able at once to return from 9 to 12; so that the representatives of French Canadian constituencies will find themselves outnumbered by from 18 to 24 votes, in a House of 81 members. Nor must it be forgotten, with reference to the point at present in question, that of the members returned by purely French constituencies there cannot fail to be a considerable number strongly attached to British rule, and opposed to what is termed French ascendancy. Under what circumstances, then, let us ask, is it imaginable that such a thing can happen as the establishment of a French Canadian "ascendancy," to the prejudice of the British race in Lower Canada? One or other of three causes must be supposed,—the mere will and pleasure of the Assembly influencing the Government,—the deliberate policy of the Government influencing the legislative bodies, or acting independently of them,—or the adoption by the Government of such a course on other matters as may, contrary to its intentions, have the effect of driving the legislature into the policy presumed.—A word or two as to each of these suppositions.

If any imaginable proposition be too clear to admit of proof, we should conceive it to be this—that the representatives of Upper Canada in the United Legislature, cannot possibly come to their task with any bias on their minds in favour of aught that may be peculiarly French

in the institutions, laws or usages of the Lower Province. Motive for *wishing* to perpetuate French Canadian "nationality," they can have none. How, then, except by unjust demands or acts of egregious folly, can the British representatives of Lower Canada oblige these natural allies of theirs from the sister Province to vote against them on questions between them and the French? Are the claims of the British race in Lower Canada, on their own showing, iniquitous or absurd? If not, they surely must never shrink from submitting them to the decision of a body, whose prepossessions, one may reasonably suppose, will all be in their favour, and which cannot possibly be found prejudiced against them.

Is it, then, to be presumed, that the policy of the Executive will be to undertake to effect what we have seen the Legislature is 'so little likely either to do itself, or to regard with favour if attempted by the Government? We have every guarantee of the fixed determination of the Imperial Government henceforth to rule these Colonies in the only way in which they can be long retained,—in compliance, that is to say, as far as possible with the wishes of the representative body. Can it be that this point is the one selected on which to run counter to those views? Or, granting even, for argument's sake, that Executive influence *could* mould the Legislature in this matter to its will, what sane man can seriously dream that the Government will ever exercise that influence for such a purpose? Has it not in terms repudiated the bye-gone policy, which fostered and maintained national distinctions among us? Does it not refer our past and present troubles mainly to that policy? Has it not brought about the Union, with the avowed design of thereby putting an end, at once, to the distinctions themselves, and to the troubles they have occasioned?

The third hypothesis remains, and we must be allowed to dismiss it almost without remark. If, indeed, with all the insight the Imperial Government has now gained into our affairs, it should be guilty of such extreme misgovernment as, within the first year or two after the Union, to involve the Provincial Executive in a formal quarrel on first principles with the representative body, the result *might* be a coalition against the government, between a liberal majority from the Upper Province and a