

3. OF THE EXPEDIENCY OF INSTRUCTION IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE.

The reasonings contained in the first part of this Letter, and the facts brought forward in the second; are sufficient, I humbly conceive, to establish the certainty of this general principle, That the diffusion of knowledge, whether considered in a political, religious, or moral point of view, is of the highest importance. It is now time to consider whether there is any thing peculiar to the Canadians which is likely to prevent education from producing the same beneficial effects upon them, which it is calculated to have upon human nature in general, and which it is certainly found to have upon the inhabitants of those countries in which it is generally diffused. An attentive survey of the particular situation of the inhabitants of Canada, will show that they form no exception to the general principle here laid down; but that, on the contrary, every circumstance in their condition corroborates the truth of it, and even affords new proofs of its universality.

THE discussion of this part of the subject, is the more necessary; because many general rules have exceptions; and general truths are often acknowledged, even while objections are found and sustained, against their particular application.

THE Canadians, as we have already observed, are to be regarded as an agricultural people. And it is among such a people, that education may, in general, be most easily introduced, and also its advantages most safely enjoyed. The