

respect, that has taken place since the country has been an appendage of the British crown. That an increase of population is an improvement in the state of every country, notwithstanding the sophistry of Malthus, than whom no political quack ever more egregiously erred, I believe, none but system-mongers, or paradox-manufacturers, will deny; and the newer, and the more extensive the country, the greater is the proportionate benefit derived by the birth of every child, and the importation of every emigrant from abroad. The unionists have alleged that Lower Canada has not advanced in population, prosperity, agriculture, commerce and civilization, in the same proportion as it would have done, had the Scotch sutlers, bum-boaters, pedlars, and contractors, who accompanied the army by which it was conquered, and who subsequently became the commercial interest of the country, had the ordering of all things. Increase of population is the basis of all other improvement; without a large population there can be no extensive consumption to cause an extended import trade; there can be no agriculture commensurate with the demands for exportation; it is only by density of population that by degrees, manufactures arise, mines are explored, and finally, the arts, and ornamental parts of life, cultivated, and literature encouraged. But it is demonstrable, upon the present accepted data, that Lower Canada has advanced in population, that basis and source of all other improvement, in full as great a ratio as the boasted rapid increase that has taken place in the United States, and certainly in a much greater ratio than any other dependency of Great Britain. By a comparison of the different census taken in America, it appears that the population of the States increases at the rate of three per cent per annum, that is, it doubles in 23 years. Now, as at the conquest there was, as the Quebec Act asserts; a Canadian population of 65000 persons, there ought to be in 1823, according to that rate, a Canadian population of 455,000. Col. Bouchette in his gross estimate stated it at 450,000 in 1822, and in his subsequent more laboured and detailed calculation, at 473,642, making thus a surplus of nearly 20,000 beyond the rate in which the States regularly increase; and as this alludes to the Canadian population alone, and does not include the inhabitants of the townships &c. it must be recollected that this increase is one, independent of foreign aid, and not swelled, like that of the States, and that of Upper Canada, by an annual tide of emigration, but one arising, to use a term familiar to the writers on rural affairs, from 'breeding in and in.' The emigrants who come to Quebec, averaging of late years about 10,000 in number, do not add to the population of Lower Canada, but in a very small degree. So that on that score the Canadians may with the greatest propriety say to all political theorists, as the French