

After the most attentive and anxious consideration of the state of these Provinces and of the difficulties under which they respectively labour, Her Majesty's Advisers came to the conclusion, that by their Reunion alone could those difficulties be removed. During the last Session of the Imperial Legislature they indeed refrained from pressing immediate legislation, but their hesitation proceeded from no doubt as to the principle of the measure or its necessity. It arose solely from their desire to ascertain more fully the opinions of the Legislature of Upper Canada, and to collect information from which the details might be rendered more satisfactory to the people of both Provinces.

The time then is now arrived beyond which a settlement cannot be postponed. In Lower Canada it is indispensable to afford a safe and practicable return to a Constitutional Government, and so far as the feelings of the inhabitants can be there ascertained the measure of the Reunion meets with approbation.

In Upper Canada it is no less necessary to enable the Province to meet her financial embarrassments and to proceed in the development of her natural resources. There are evidently no means in this Province of fulfilling the pecuniary obligations which have been contracted but by a great increase in the Local Revenues. But so long as Lower Canada remains under her present form of Government neither Province possesses any power over the only source from which that increase can be drawn. Nor even, were it possible to restore a Representative Constitution to Lower Canada, unaccompanied by the Union, would the position of this Province be much improved; since past experience has shewn the difficulty of procuring assent to any alteration of the Customs Laws suggested from hence.

This Province has engaged in undertakings which reflect the highest honour on the enterprize and industry of her inhabitants. The public works which she has completed or commenced have been conceived in a spirit worthy of a successful result. But additional means are indispensable to avert the ruin of some, and secure the completion of others. Nor will that alone suffice; Lower Canada holds the key to all those improvements. Without her co-operation, the navigation for which nature has done so much, for which this Province has so deeply burthened itself, must remain incomplete, and a barrier be opposed to the development of those great natural resources which the hand of Providence has so lavishly bestowed on this country.

With a view to remove all those difficulties; to relieve the financial embarrassments of Upper Canada; to enable her to complete her Public Works; and develop her agricultural capabilities;—to restore Constitutional Government to Lower Canada; to establish a firm, impartial, and vigorous Government for both; and to unite the people within them in one common feeling of attachment to British Institutions and British Connexion, the Union is desired by Her Majesty's Government; and that measure alone, if based upon just principles, appears adequate to the occasion.

Those principles in the opinion of Her Majesty's advisers are; a just regard to the claims of either Province in adjusting the terms of the Union—the maintenance of the three Estates of the Provincial Legislature;—the settlement of