

would change their opinions, be convinced as I am, and decide as I do, not only with a view to their apparent and immediate good, but also to their own real and ultimate good as a part of that whole, whose prosperity, as a whole, can alone ensure the prosperity of each subordinate part of which it consists. I allow that as to local and private matters, such as turnpikes, public buildings, &c. since the inhabitants of each district or place, must necessarily be the best judges respecting them, and that their representative can never suppose that any others can be equally acquainted with, or interested in, the merits of these cases he is, in discretion, bound to obey their instructions in such matters, even against his own opinion, for, in that case, his own opinion is only the opinion of the minority in his own district, and to be bound by the majority, whereas in questions of general interest, or bearing upon the collective welfare, or even particular welfare of any other portion of the state of which his district forms a part, his opinion is in fact that of the majority of his constituents, who have entrusted to him the power of judging for them, seeing with his eyes, hearing with his ears, judging with his understanding, and deciding by his voice. A member of any representative house, who considers himself as bound to follow the instructions of his constituents, I look upon in the same light, as I should one sent in by the executive government, or by a particular faction, for the mere purpose of nodding assent, or shaking his head in the negative, upon questions previously determined upon by a set of men, judging and deciding *ex parte*, whether a board of ministers, or a meeting of mobocrats.

Of all the speeches in favour of the union, that of Mr. Randall stands prominent for the singularity of his arguments. "He was," he said, "in favour of it, not in contradiction to the sentiments of his constituents, because he thought they were favourable to it also, but because he thought an union, both of the executives and the legislatures, would be for the general welfare and prosperity of the inhabitants of Canada." "He objected as strongly as any man to the objectionable clauses of the bill before the British parliament; those clauses were of an infamous description; but, infamous as they were, they could not make the Upper province worse than it was at present. The system pursued in it was intolerable, and he verily believed that nothing could rouse the people to a sense of their duty, but an union with the French Canadians, who were the real guardians of the people's rights. He had known most just claims upon the government to be rejected; he, for one, was a sufferer under their system; and it was absolutely necessary for the salvation of the country, that an union should take place. He knew the French Canadians, he was bound to them by all the ties of friendship and gratitude: they were a learned, honour-