

tion will be a moral and not a physical one, it will not be attended with the evils incident to separation, but will leave undisturbed the social system, and render more enduring if possible the friendship existing between us and the Mother Country. But in the first steps toward national greatness we must not

“Build high hopes which would crush us with their fall,”

we must not cherish the idea of absolute greatness and its concomitant absolute power, fortune frequently decides that which reason never perceives, or if perceiving never could attain by any continued line of action however well conceived and followed out, but nevertheless, by proceeding steadily and surely, cultivating in equal ratio our intellectual and commercial power, we shall no doubt ultimately become the leaders of transatlantic opinion and the founders of a great northern dynasty, gigantic, powerful and just. We have at present certain duties to perform as sacred as ever fell to the lot of man; we are at once the architect and builders of a pedestal upon which Canadian independence must ultimately stand, and it is with regret that we feel we will one day sever from a country under whose present protection it is our boast to live, but however disagreeable the reflection it is nevertheless a true one. We should therefore, in a country such as ours, where politics as yet are scarcely regarded as a science, where from the diversity of races the most opposite notions of political law and justice obtain, where to use a comprehensive term the political mind is unformed; be extremely careful in selecting from the multiplicity of speculative and untried opinions which float about in confusion and disorder in the Canadian political horizon. Indeed many of the notions which have hitherto prevailed might beneficially be forgotten, notions I regret to say which are only associated with the rivalries of races, and which only serve to awaken the recollection of our disjointed existence. In our study of political science, we might easily abstract from known political systems their common truths, and reject their specific errors, and from the whole, work out an example for our future guidance, or, which would be far better, we might ourselves generate a political system the more to be admired from its being the creature of our own production, a system comprehensive and just which will receive the universal sanction of a people who will consecrate its existence and recognize its power, by submitting to its authority. To the fulfilment of that duty should be directed the best efforts of those who undertake and become the rulers and arbiters of our destinies. Let it not be imagined for one moment that we are