

"Much has been said about introducing the English language among the Canadians, by various means; and that, at a certain period, the debates of parliament are also to be in that language. The unionists have endeavoured to prove that such a measure would tend to extinguish national prejudices; and hostility of feeling derived from difference of origin, and consolidating the population into one homogeneous mass.* This is devoutly to be wished for by every real friend of the provinces; but let us view it through a political medium. We all know that ignorance of the English language is the insuperable bar to any intimacy existing between the great mass of Canadian population; and our ambitious neighbours and rivals. Remove this effectually, and you throw down a stronger barrier than your whole militia, with the chain of posts from Lake Huron to the entrance of the St. Lawrence. Of all things this would be most obnoxious to the French Canadians.† It has been observed in the

* I deny that there exists any hostility of feeling derived from difference of origin: the French Canadians are liberal in their ideas of that nature beyond the example of any nation I ever saw or heard of: in fact, awake to the blessings of a free constitution, and feeling and seeing the benefits they partake of, from the gift of that constitution, and their connection with England, they seem always to feel a yearning desire towards the most cordial intercourse with their fellow subjects of a different language and religion; but are repelled by the purse-pride of the Scotch parvenus amongst them, and thence, certainly, are unfortunately too apt to attribute the same repulsive manners to the whole of the British family, seeing so very few of any other portion of it, than those who are born north of the Tweed. As to the consolidation of the population into one mass, it is already, as respects L. Canada, as much as, from the nature of things, it can be: and that mass is French Canadian; as it ought to be, the few anomalous particles of Scotch and other materials, being little more than the usual proportion of dross there is in standard silver, of which 11 carats are pure, and 1 carat alloy.

† And most deservedly so. Along with their language must fall their customs, their laws, and their religion: if there are any things dearer than others to man, as a citizen, they are his religion, the laws of his country, and the customs of his forefathers; the free enjoyment of which form the essence of political liberty. But upon the same principle which I have before advanced as to their laws, and upon the same maxim, namely, that *whoever has a right to the end, has thereby a right also to the means*, I contend, that the Canadians have, by their original compact with England, the capitulation, a right to the free use of their native language in their courts and assemblies; for if