

Chap. James Stuart was appointed by the unionists
 xxiii. to carry home their petitions. These gentle-
 1822. men accordingly proceeded to England, by way
 of New York, early in the winter, so as to be
 in time for the opening of parliament. The
 committee of anti-unionists at Quebec, while the
 petitions were in progress, addressed printed
 circulars to several members of the british
 house of commons, requesting that all proceed-
 ings with respect to the intended union might
 be stayed, until their petition should reach
 England, and be laid before parliament.

The governor, in this matter, kept aloof, pa-
 tronising neither of the parties, but giving to
 those who went to England, with their res-
 pective petitions, letters of introduction to the
 colonial minister.

The Eastern Townships, hitherto unrepres-
 ented in the legislature and virtually excluded
 from it, very generally expressed themselves
 in favor of the union. The following are in-
 stances of their views of the subject:—

At a meeting of the inhabitants of St. Armand, it was resolved,—

“ That this meeting has observed with the greatest satisfaction,
 the disposition that prevails in his Majesty’s government, to apply an
 effectual remedy to existing political evils in the provinces of Canada,
 by uniting them under one legislature.

“ That in the opinion of this meeting, the proposed measure of a
 union, is not more imperiously demanded, by the respective interests
 of the two provinces, which, from local situation and other circum-
 stances, are interwoven, than by those of the mother country, which,
 without this salutary measure, must continue to be counteracted by
 national prejudices, habits and dispositions, proceeding from the
 foreign origin of a part of the population.. *

“ That the inhabitants of the townships of Lower Canada, compos-
 ed of loyalists and the descendants of native british subjects, under the
 existing constitution of the legislature of the province, have not only
 been debarred from the exercise of the political rights belonging to