

unaware of the very peculiar posture of affairs, sought to stay the controversy by a mere course of concession to the Assembly; which body by this time had become essentially French Canadian in all its views, and was besides urging the most extravagant demands in the most offensive language. A very short time showed how hopelessly the day of conciliation was gone by. Insurrection arrayed the races openly in arms against each other; and the feud of origin took a form that could no longer be disregarded or mistaken.

In 1833, the entire Anglo-Canadian population was for the first time united in favor of the Union. Distrustful of the race they had so long looked upon as their enemies, they demanded that it should never again enjoy political superiority over themselves; as it must if, at any time for many years to come, a new Constitution should be granted to Lower Canada. Scarcely less distrustful of the policy of the Imperial Government, with regard to the points at issue between the French and themselves, they as heartily insisted on the insufficiency of any more prolonged suspension of the constitution, which should leave it to deal with both parties at its discretion. There was one course only left—the formation of a new Province, in which a majority of the constituent body should be of their own race, and return them a legislature on whose sympathies they might rely. By the Union, on the terms they suggested, they looked upon this object as secured. The French Canadian race, from precisely similar considerations, were of course equally unanimous in their hostility to the projected change.

Later events, however, have not failed to produce their natural effect on the temper of either party. British and French have both, to a greater or less extent, changed their ground; the former, as we have already intimated, becoming somewhat less confident and zealous on the one hand; the latter showing themselves considerably less united in their views, and on the whole less apprehensive, on the other.

The causes of this change of feeling have been several. The time that has elapsed has allowed men to reflect more coolly than they could at first do; making apparent to the one party difficulties it had overlooked, and to the other the groundlessness of some, at least, of

its old fears, and a reasonable prospect of some unforeseen advantages. A more powerful cause, however, is to be found in the general temper of parties at home and in Upper Canada, on the subject of the Union. Both parties in Lower Canada had been brought to look forward to measures of a more severe character than they now see to be contemplated.—to a complete triumph, in fact, of the one race over the other. They find a moderation displayed which they had not expected. *Proscription and disfranchisement* are not so much as talked of, out of Lower Canada. "British feeling," in Westminster and the Upper Province, refuses to respond to any project for the systematic exclusion of any class of British subjects from the enjoyment of those political privileges which are the common birth-right of all. The provisions of the Union Act are not such as to meet the wishes of that class of individuals in Lower Canada, (politicians—by excess of courtesy,) whose day-dreams are of exclusive privileges to be forever enjoyed by a favoured caste, who would risk any thing in the shape of oligarchical misgovernment and general discontent, such as could not but result from their system,—rather than try the infinitely less hazardous experiment of popular institutions and equal laws.

Most unfortunately for its own interests, the "British party" in Lower Canada has heretofore numbered in its ranks, but too many individuals of this stamp. In times of high excitement, the most violent partizans are naturally the most prominent. To this class of men we cannot pretend to recommend the Union. They are right in thinking it is not for them. It is not meant it should establish an "ascendancy" system in the Canadas, and it never will. With this salutary knowledge, suggested already by their own instinct, we are content to leave them to the well-earned insignificance which the Union has in store for them.

With this class of individuals, however, the great bulk of the Anglo-Canadian population of the Province have no real sympathy. It stands "among them, but not of them." Its objects, its fears, and its fortunes, are all distinct and separate from theirs. They protested in good faith, against a restoration of the old constitution, simply because they saw in it the triumph of the other race, and their own defeat. They are averse to any long continuance of