British Consul

THE MONTREAL COURIER.

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TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

...number and magnitude of the evils that afflict ...country, and the universal and increasing de... of its material interests, call upon all per... ...ested by a sincere desire for its welfare, to ...ire to the purposes of inquiry and preparation, ...view to the adoption of such remedies as a ...al dispassionate investigation may suggest. ...ging to all parties, origins, and creeds, but ...pon the advantage of co-operation for ...advance of a common duty to ourselves and ...osterity, growing out of a common necessity, ...ly commend, in view of a brighter and hap... ...future, to merge in oblivion all past differences, ...former character, or attributable to whatever ...es. In appealing to our Fellow-Colonists to ...ake us in this our most needful duty, we ...ly conjure them, as they desire a successful ...ue of the welfare of their country, to enter ...ur task, at this momentous crisis, in the same ...ublic spirit.

...e removal of the ancient policy of Great ...Britain, whereby she withdrew from the Colonies ...ritish protection in her markets, has produced ...ost disastrous effects upon Canada. In our ...ediate actual condition of the country, what but ...ost rapid decay meets the eye! Our Provincial ...ernment and Civic Corporations, embarrassed; ...ade, and other securities, greatly depre... ...ur mercantile and agricultural interests ...ly prosperous; real estate scarcely saleable ...any terms; our unrivalled rivers, lakes, and ...ys almost unused; whilst commerce abandons ...m; the circulating capital amassed under a ...favorable system, is dissipated, with none from ...hence to replace it!! Thus, without available ...ans to effect a loan with Foreign States, ...even in the Mother Country, although offering ...ecidedly superior to that which readily obtains ...y loan from the United States and Great ...ain other than Colonists are the appli... ...Canada, therefore, and checked in the full ...ment of private and public enterprise, this possess... ...ost favored of the British Crown—our country stands be... ...world a humiliating contrast with its immea... ...ources, exhibiting every symptom of a ...ishing to decay.

...Its redundant water power, and cheap ...ey already in Lower Canada, we have yet no ...conception of; nor can the most sanguine, ...der altered circumstances, anticipate the ...ment, or advent from foreign parts, of either ...ise or enterprise to embark in this great source ...ional wealth. Our institutions, unhappily, ...ot the impress of permanence which can ...ect a parity, and inspire confidence; and ...ian market is too limited to tempt the ...capitalist.

...the adjoining States are covered with a ...ld ramify railways, Canada possesses but ...es, which, together, scarcely exceed 50 ...miles, and the stock in two of which is ...depreciation of from 50 to 80 per cent.—a ...ation of the vapor overspreading the land, ...worst form of Provincial Government not to ...and so expensive as to be ill suited to the ...ces of the country; and the necessary re... ...ard to a distant Government, im... ...quainted with Canadian affairs, and ...disinterest to our interests, is enough to ...em. In the event of a rupture be... ...and the most powerful nations of the world, ...would become the battle-field and the suf... ...ur little her interests might be involved ...e of quarrel or the issue of the contest.

...ther animosities of political parties and fac... ...Canada, often leading to violence, and, upon ...ion, to civil war, seem not to have abated ...; nor is there, at the present moment, any ...diminution or accommodation. The as... ...becomes daily more threatening to ...other, and under our existing institutions ...ems, little hope is discernible of a peaceful ...peaceful administration of our affairs, but ...ould, to all appearance, accumulate until ...ecomes irremediable. In this view ...ons, we cannot but deem it our duty to ...ding party distinctions and place entirely ...before the people, must be fraught with ...disadvantages.

...ith Statesmen of the Mother Country—...e sagacious observers of the neighboring ...ion Canada—and in all British North ...mongst all classes, there is a strong per... ...ssion that a political revolution in this ...ck hood. Such forebodings cannot readily ...ed, and they have, moreover, a tendency to ...ccasion to which they point. In the mean... ...ious injury results to Canada from the ...ipation upon the more desirable ...ers, who naturally prefer a country ...ed and permanent forms of government to ...state of transition.

...ons asserted to some of the causes of our ...ess, we would consider how far the reme... ...ously proposed possess sound and rational ...to justify their adoption:—

...The revival of protection in the markets of ...Kingdom.

...If attainable in a sufficient degree, and ...for a long period of years, would ame... ...condition of many of our chief interests, ...ility of the Empire forbids the anticipation. ...would be but a partial remedy. The ...the Mother Country demand cheap food; ...ual change from protection to free trade ...ple that ruin which the first has done ...manufacture.

...The protection of home manufactures."

...which might encourage the growth of a ...ing interest in Canada, yet, without ac... ...United States market, there would not ...ient expansion of that interest, from the ...consumers, to work any result that could be ...ed a "remedy" for the numerous evils of ...description.

...A Federal Union of the British American ...ces.

...The advantages claimed for that arrangement are ...ly between the different Provinces, and a ...ed governmental expenditure. The attain... ...of the latter object would be problematical, and ...ts anticipated from the former might be ...by legislation under our existing system... ...ests of the Sister Provinces would not bene... ...ada in number, for they have a surplus of that ...for their own forests; and their demand for ...ed products would be too limited to absorb ...ded supply. Nor could Canada expect any ...ment to her manufacturing industry from ...sisters. A Federal Union, therefore, would ...remedy.

...The Independence of the British North ...American Colonies as a Federal Republic."

...The inhabitation of its new institutions from cle... ...ment so discordant—the formation of trea... ...with Foreign Powers—the acquirement of a ...character among the nations—would, we ...ink, be an over-match for the strength of the ...republic. And, having regard to the powerful ...ing of States conterminous with itself, the ...military defences would be too costly to rein... ...dependence a boon, whilst it would not, any ...to a Federal Union, remove those obstacles ...to our material prosperity.

...The Reciprocal Free Trade with the United ...States respects the products of the farm, the far... ...of the mine."

...Indeed, this would yield but an instalment of ...the advantages which might be otherwise se... ...The free interchange of such products would ...enable manufactures to our country. It would not give us the North American Continent for our market. It would neither so amend our Institutions as to confer stability nor ensure confidence in their permanence; nor would it allay the violence of parties, or, in the slightest degree, remedy many of our grievous evils.

5.—Of all the remedies that have been suggested for the sickness lodged and insufferable ills with which our country is afflicted, there remains but one to be considered. It propounds a sweeping and important change in our political and social condition involving considerations which demand our most serious examination. This remedy consists in a "Friendly and Peaceful Separation from British Connection and a Union upon equitable terms with the great North American Confederacy of Sovereign States."

We would premise that towards Great Britain we entertain none other than sentiments of kindness and respect. Without her consent we consider Separation as neither practicable nor desirable. But the Colonial policy of the Parent State, the avowals of her leading Statesmen, the public sentiments of the Empire, present unmistakeable and significant indications of the appreciation of Colonial Connection. That it is the resolve of England to invest us with the attributes and compel us to assume the burdens of Independence is no longer problematical. The threatened withdrawal of her troops from other Colonies—the continuance at her military posts of to ourselves only on the condition that we shall defray the attendant expenditure, betoken her actions towards our country, against which it is weakness in us not to provide. An overruling conviction, then, of its necessity, and a high sense of the duty we owe to our country, a duty we can neither disregard nor postpone, impel us to entertain the idea of Separation; and whatever negociations may eventuate with Great Britain, a grateful liberality on the part of Canada should mark every proceeding.

The proposed Union would render Canada a field for American capital, into which it would enter as freely for the prosecution of public works and private enterprise as into any of the present States. It would equalise the value of real estate upon both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada, whilst, by giving stability to our institutions and introducing prosperity, it would raise our public, corporate, and private credit. It would increase our commerce both with the United States and Foreign Countries, and would not necessarily diminish to any great extent our intercourse with Great Britain, into which our products would for the most part enter on the same terms as at present. It would render our rivers and canals the highway for the immigration to, and exports from, the West, to the incalculable benefit of our country. It would also introduce manufactures into Canada as rapidly as they have been introduced into the Northern States; and to Lower Canada especially, whose water privileges and labour are abundant and cheap, it would attract manufacturing capital, enhancing the value of property and agricultural produce, and giving remunerative employment to what is at present a comparatively non-producing population. Nor would the United States merely furnish the capital for our manufactures. They would also supply for them the most extensive market in the world, without the intervention of a Custom House Officer. Railways would forthwith be constructed by American capital as feeders for all the great lines now approaching our frontiers; and railway enterprise in general would doubtless be as active and prosperous among us as among our neighbours. The value of our agricultural produce would be raised at once to a par with that of the United States, whilst agricultural implements and many of the necessaries of life, such as tea, coffee, and sugar, would be greatly reduced in price.

The value of our timber would also be greatly enhanced by free access to the American market, where it bears a high price, but is subject to an onerous duty. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that our shipbuilders, as well at Quebec as on the Great Lakes, would find an unlimited market in all the ports of the American Continent. It cannot be doubted that the shipping trade of the United States must greatly increase. It is equally manifest that, with them, the principal material in the construction of ships is rapidly diminishing, while we possess vast territories, covered with timber of excellent quality, which would be equally available as it is now, since under the Free Trade system our vessels would sell as well in England after Annexation as before.

The simple and economical State Government, in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguishing feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbrous and expensive.

In place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbor, there would be peace and amity between this country and the United States. Disagreements between the United States and her chief if not only rival among nations would no more be the evil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their dispute, as under our existing relations must necessarily be the case. That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a fore-doomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

But other advantages than those having a bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contest between races and parties, allay and obliterate those irritations and conflicts of rancour and recrimination which have hitherto disfigured our social fabric. Already its assimilation has its harmonious influence been felt—the harbinger may it be hoped of a lasting oblivion of dissensions among all classes, creeds, and parties in the country. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth. We have, now, no voice in the affairs of the Empire, nor do we share in its honors or emoluments. England as our Parent State, with whom we have no equality, but towards whom we stand in the simple relation of obedience. But as citizens of the United States the public service of the nation would be open to us,—a field for high and honorable distinction on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of perfect equality.

Nor would the amicable Separation of Canada from Great Britain be fraught with advantages to us alone. The relief to the Parent State from the large expenditure now incurred in the military occupation of the country,—the removal of the many causes of collision with the United States, which result from the contiguity of distant territories so extensive,—the benefit of the larger market which the increasing prosperity of Canada would create, are considerations which, in the minds of many of her ablest Statesmen, render our incorporation with the United States a desirable consummation.

To the United States also the Annexation of Canada presents many important inducements. The withdrawal from their borders, of so powerful a nation, by whom in time of war the immense and growing commerce of the lakes would be jeopardized—the ability to dispense with the costly but inefficient revenue establishment over a frontier of many hundred miles—the large accession to their income from our Customs—the unrestricted use of the St. Lawrence, the natural highway from the Western States to the ocean, are objects for the attainment of which the most substantial equivalents would undoubtedly be conceded.

FELLOW-COLONISTS!

We have thus laid before you our views and convictions on a momentous question—involving a change, which, though contemplated by many of us with varied feelings and emotions, we all believe to be inevitable;—one which it is our duty to provide for, and heartily to promote.

We address you without prejudice or partiality,—in the spirit of sincerity and truth,—in the interest solely of our common country,—and our single aim is its safety and welfare. If to your judgment and reason our object and aim be at this time deemed laudable and right, we ask an oblivion of past dissensions; and from all, without distinction of origin, party, or creed, that earnest and cordial co-operation in such lawful, prudent, and judicious means as may best conduce to its successful destiny.

PROJECT FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE SEIGNORIAL TENURE.

By M. Dorion.

(Translated from L'Avenir for the Montreal Herald.)

The following project, submitted to the consideration of the permanent committee, named by the convention of delegates, is for the total abolition of the Seigneurial system. It resolves itself to the following:—*The purchase, or redemption, of all the Seigniories by the government: the half of the redemption due to the Seigniors to be paid from the public chest, and the other half by the censitaires.*

It is with a view to explaining the mode I would adopt for the attainment of this object that I have undertaken this task, and, above all, to proving those interested the practicability of the project. The project being for the abolition of the Tenure, I shall not stop to consider what *reforms* it may be susceptible of, but leave that to those who prefer reform to abolition.

Let us endeavour, then, to form some idea of the value of the Seigniories, and of the sum it would cost to redeem the rights of the Seigniors, before we speak of the means of redeeming them.

The extent of land held under the Seigniorial Tenure in Lower Canada, may be estimated at 9,027,880 arpents. In proposing the redemption of the Seigniories by government, we may deduct the Seigniories known under the name of the *Jesuits' Estates*, of which the government have the enjoyment, and the Seigniory of Lauson, which is government property. It will be seen by the following table how many arpents of land will remain to be redeemed:—

Total extent of Seigniories, . .	9,027,880
DEDUCT	
Jesuits' Est.—Dis Montreal, 48,000	
" " " Three Riv, 439,000	
" " " Quebec, . 129,500	
Seigniory of Lauson, . 254,016	
About 500 arpents, in each of 300 Seigniories, *Fiefs*, &c., &c., ... 150,000	
	1,020,516
Balance to be redeemed. .	8,007,364

According to the topography of Bouchette, I believe, that the Seigniories may be divided into three classes, according to the value of the land in each. By an estimate which I am about to make, an idea may, I think, be formed as to what would be the amount required for the redemption of the whole. I shall take, for example, the Seigniory of Terrebonne, which I shall place among those of the first class. This Seigniory cost its present proprietor £25,000, besides the *quint* payable to the government, viz., one-fifth of the price—making it, in all, £30,000. Since this Seigniory was purchased, the value of property in the country parts has not increased, at least, if I can depend upon the reports of the Registrars in Lower Canada, published in the "report of the department of registration and statistics." In many counties property has diminished in value in consequence of the bad system of agricultire.

The government need not purchase the mills, manor-houses, or domains retained in the hands of the Seignior, since its only object is to relieve the censitaires from the burden which weighs them down.

In estimating the value of the mills, domains and other properties retained in his own hands by the Seignior of Terrebonne, at £8000, I believe I do not exaggerate their value, I think, indeed, they are worth more, but let us take them at that sum. We must deduct, then, £8000 from £30,000, the calculated value of the Seigniory; there remains the sum of £22,000.

I shall now divide the extent of the seigniories into three classes, as I said above. I suppose, then, one third of the whole to belong to the first class, of the same value as that of Terrebonne; that the second third is worth one-half that of Terrebonne; and the third class, one-half of the second, or one quarter that of Terrebonne.

I could give the reasons which lead me to adopt this valuation, but it would require me to enter into a wide field of details. I shall, therefore, confine myself to the following:—

Throughout a large section of the seigniories, there are vast tracts of barren land, such as the seigniories lying below and north of Quebec, and the lands cultivated upon them are of an inferior quality, much decreased in value within late years. Upon this subject, I find, in the report, an abstract, in accordance with a letter from M. DuBerger, Registrar for the County of Saguenay.

"The value of lands has decreased, and many *habitants* have sold their farms at a low price, with a view to settlement on the lands lately opened by the Crown, on the river."

Also below Quebec, on the South of the St. Lawrence, we have similar accounts of the depreciation in the value of lands, from M. Lépine, the Registrar of the County of L'Islet.

I could multiply facts in evidence that a large portion of the Seigniories have remained stationary in value, and many others have decreased in value, but, I think, these cases may suffice. I proceed, then, to estimate the value of the whole. 2,669,121 arpents in each of the three classes.

The Seigniory of Terrebonne contains 28,224 arpents of land. If 28,224 arpents cost £22,000, how much will the 2,669,121 arpents of the first class cost? And so, with the other classes, at one-half and one-quarter the valuation—£11,000 and £5,500. The result, omitting fractions, would be as follows:—

The first class would cost . .	£2,080,522
The second " " " . .	1,040,261
The third " " " . . .	52,1,131
Total, . . .	£3,640,914

We find, thus, that the total approximate value of the Seigniories, deducting the properties in the hands of the Seigniors, would amount to about three millions and a-half. It is necessary, then, to raise this sum to relieve the country from the Seigniorial Tenure. I believe it possible to find this sum in the country—let us see.

To obtain the total abolition, it is necessary that the public treasure be brought to the aid of the *censitaires*, for at least half this amount. It would be impossible for the *censitaires* to pay it, without utter ruin. To contemplate the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure, without public aid, is to dream of a thing impossible.

I will now attempt to show how the *censitaires* of Lower Canada could easily pay £1,750,000, and that the public treasury, notwithstanding the bad state of our finances, could also, without great difficulty, pay a like sum. Let me begin with the *censitaires*.

I shall take the Seigniory of *Ste. Anne de la Pérade*, for example. It cost its proprietor £12,000. If we add the *quint*, its value will be about £15,000. The personal estate of the Seignior may be valued at £5,000. There remains, £10,000 to pay—half by the *censitaires*, the other half by the government.

The government once possessed of the Seigniories, the best means of reimbursing itself of the half due by the *censitaires*, would be to value the lands, and to make them pay to the Seignior, one-half of the *lods et ventes*, once for all, and also one-half of the capitalized rent payable by the *censitaires*.

There are in the Seigniory of Ste. Anne, at least 600 farms in cultivation, which may be valued as follows: 12 farms at £800, 13 at £600, 25 at £450, 50 at £350, 50 at £275, 50 at £200, 50 at £100, and 50 at £50.

The rent of each farm may be 7s. 6d. a year, which represents a capital of £6 5s. Let us capitulate this statement, and see how we are to obtain the necessary amount to pay the half of the capitalized rent.

12 farms @ £800 give *lods* . .	£	800	0	0
13 " 600 " " . .		650	0	0
25 " 450 " " . .		837	10	0
50 " 350 " " . .		1460	16	8
50 " 275 " " . .		1127	10	0
50 " 200 " " . .		816	13	4
50 " 100 " " . .		416	6	8
50 " 50 " " . .		208	6	8
	£	6417	3	4
Add to this sum the redemption of 600 rents at 7s. 6d., £6 5s. each, ...		3750	0	0
Giving a total of .	£	10,167	3	4

In casting the eye over this statement, it will, I think, appear that it will be sufficiently easy to obtain the required sum—that is, one-half of the *lods* and one-half of the capitalized rent—from the censitaires. A farmer possessed of a farm worth £200, would have to pay, according to this project, the following sum:—

The half of one *lod* upon £200 . .	£8	6	8
The half of the capitalized rent . .	3	2	6
Total payment, . . .	£11	9	2

Thus, a property valued at £200, would be charged with the sum of £11 9s. 2d., and other properties in proportion. I believe that not one censitaire would be unable to relieve his land from seigniorial charges, at this rate, provided he was indulged with a certain delay. Supposing the censitaire has five years allowed him, during which, to pay his share of the indemnity, and according to the above estimate upon a farm worth £200, it will be seen, he would have to pay 45 dollars in five years, which would be 9 dollars a year, or thirteen shillings and sixpence, annual interest, leaving it in his option to pay the capital when he thought proper. Many proprietors of land worth £200, pay more than 13s. 6d. of annual rent in the District of Montreal, besides their being subject to payments of *lods et ventes*, and to the rights of *banalité*, of *retrait*, &c.

I believe I have sufficiently clearly established that the *censitaire* could, without difficulty, pay his half of the indemnity. I shall now turn my attention to the providing for the payment of the other half from the public treasure. Great obstacles present themselves—in the first place, the consent of Upper Canada will be indispensible, and secondly, how are the funds to be obtained, thirdly will the disposition of our population be willing that a certain amount of the public funds should be devoted to this object?

I think, I am justified in saying that, even in Upper Canada, a large section of that population would consent to the plan. Mr. Abraham, late editor of the *Montreal Gazette*, in a pamphlet, published by him upon the the Seigniorial Tenure in Canada, has given us his views. This author is esteemed by his countrymen and has much influence among them. We may, then, cite his opinion as being that of a large section of the English population of Lower Canada. The following are his views, published since the last session of the Legislature:—

"My own opinion is, that the best plan would be to value the Seigniories, exclusively of the *rentes*, and of the lands in demesne. Their whole value, I believe, would be found very trifling. I would take the average of ten years and add a *per centage* for improvement; and to the redemption of this, and to the entire extinction of the feudal title, I would devote the proceeds of all public lands. In fact, I would buy them out, and establish no new title but that of *soccage* or *franc aleu*. No one who knows anything of human nature, or who has watched the progress of events with any attention, can expect that if the seigneurs do not do something of the kind their legal rights can no longer be maintained. And the longer they put off the settlement the worse terms will they obtain."

With regard to the Upper Canadians, I believe they would be in favor of the abolition of the Tenure, even at the public expense. The following paragraph is from a late number of the *Brantford Herald*:—

"SEIGNIORAL TENURE.—We observe by the Lower Canadian journals that the people in that section of the Province are agitating the question of the Seigniorial Tenure. It is time that that question was settled. Upper and Lower Canada are no longer separate provinces, and *we believe that Western Canadians are bound to come to the assistance of their brethern in the East, and to aid them in obtaining the redress of this grievance, in an equitable manner.*

We should wish to see justice done to the seigniors as well as to the censitaires, but we should like to see that justice promptly awarded, for no system can be more deplorable than that which prevails in the seigniories of that part of the Province."

We have, then, two authorities, who, without having been asked to express their views upon the question, have published their opinions. They induce me to believe that the English population, in both sections of the Province, views this movement with satisfaction, and will be willing to aid it.

It only remains then to answer the question—will the finances of the Country admit of such an appropriation? Without hesitation, I reply that they will.

A Country which can supply millions for the construction of canals, thousands for the purpose of deepening a lake; thousands of pounds to pay for the transport of the sent of Government from one City to another every four years; thousands to the legions of its public servants; £7,500 a year for a Governor; can surely spare a poor little million and a half, to assist, morally and physically, the most important class in our society, the farmers—those who form the majority of the people.

The expenses of government for 1848, will be, at least, £650,000. Well, with a little economy, they might be reduced £200,000, but supposing they were only reduced £100,000, a year; in fifteen years, the indemnity payable to the Seigniors would be realized.

There are, besides, the public lands, the revenues derived from the *quints* payable by the seigniors; the unconceded lands in the seigniories, and many other means of largely contributing to a fund established for this object. For my part, I should greatly depend upon the necessity of diminishing the public expenses, which are extravagant for a people, who have so much need of pecuniary assistance to enable them to escape from their humiliating position and follow in the course of progress and civilization.

SPIRIT OF THE CONTEMPORARY PRESS.

THE COUNTER MOVEMENT.—The grand counter demonstration that was set on foot in this city upon the appearance of the Montreal Manifesto, has up to this moment cut but a sorry figure. The old Tory party marshalled by the "Family Compact," immediately took the field, and Mr. Baldwin and his supporters seconding the movement, the utter annihilation of Annexation opinions was vauntingly pronostrated. As far, however, as events have transpired, this temporary coalition appears to have proved a failure. The Montreal Manifesto, which has since received many hundreds of additional signatures, was at first signed by upwards of three hundred of the most respectable business men in that city; and we have a right to infer, if the commercial men of Toronto were seriously opposed to their views, that a counter document, with names prefixed to it of equal weight and respectability, would have been as rapidly and as numerously signed by them. But instead of that being the case, we have the *Patriot's* admission with regard to the declaration in question, that the signatures appended to it increased but slowly. And why should it be otherwise? The benefits proposed by the Montreal Manifesto, embrace the interests of the whole population of Canada, and are justly entitled to elicit a corresponding union of sentiment.

Were we called upon to define the motives by which a combined movement has been made on the part of the Tories and the supporters of the present Administration, to discountenance Annexation opinions, we should feel very little hesitation in assigning principle to the one, and selfishness to the other. And as far as the consistency of the former is concerned, in upholding their extreme views of "the divine right of Kings" and other exploded dogmas, together with their obstinate adherence to old forms and systems, as contrasted with the utter selfishness of the latter—we feel no squeamishness in saying, that the efforts of the Reform party to suppress the movement, are such as to admit of the least defence. The assertion made by the Government Press, that now, that through the efforts of the Reform party, Responsible Government is in full operation, it would not merely be ingratitude to Great Britain but an absolute stultification of themselves, to favour Annexation—is a mere pretext set up solely with the view of securing to the more prominent of the party the power and emoluments they now enjoy, and of favouring the hopes and expectations they indulge in. The conviction of this, we are happy to say, is daily becoming stronger; and as a necessary result, the power to arrest the Annexation movement in order to further these into vested motives, is proportionately becoming weaker. Many, who under false impressions, upon the impulse of the moment, signed the counter document, have since seen reason to change their opinions, and have taken occasion to find its way into public notice, we have no doubt that others who were similarly inveigled into becoming a party to it, will honestly follow their example.

Upon reflection, men clearly see, that it is neither a question of politics or of party, but one of vital interest to the community at large; and viewing it in that light they leave the office-holder in possession, as well as the office-holder in perspective, to sympathize with each other under their disappointment, and to launch their anathemas against the people of Canada for desiring to change their condition, when they themselves found it incivilcally conducive to their interests to be not merely contented but absolutely delighted with it.

Since writing the above, we understand the most extraordinary efforts have been made to get up a list of opponents to the Annexation movement, even the constabulary being employed to perambulate the City for the purpose of obtaining signatures. The knowledge of this, we presume, was the cause of the *Globe's* exulting threat, on Tuesday last, to "astonish the natives" of Montreal, when the list is published. This may, or may not have an influence on the Montrealers; but we hope they will have sufficient confidence in the rectitude of the course they have adopted, not to be shaken by any array that may be marshalled against them, however imposing. The Seat of Government coming here, is the secret spring of whatever change of opinion to any extent may be exhibited; but as such an impulse can only be regarded as of an ephemeral character, when the first burst of feeling subsides, matters will most assuredly calm down, and resume those opinions which are founded on a more solid basis.

If, for a moment, it were to be supposed that the settlement of so momentous a question, as that of changing the political relations of a country, with all the important considerations involved in such a measure, could possibly be contingent, upon so comparatively frivolous an issue, as to where the Seat of Government was to be located, the whole affair would scarcely be deserving of a moment's serious reflection: for it would evidently be rendering the feelings and wishes of the rural population of such a country, wholly subservient to the particular city, that might be successful in securing to itself the local advantages to be derived from such a distinction. As Toronto, however, is neither Upper Canada, any more than Upper Canada is Toronto, with the claims of the latter to be selected as the Capital, acknowledged even beyond a doubt, we still feel every confidence that the question of Annexation, with reference to the country at large, rests as firmly upon its merits as ever. And whatever circumstances may arise, to alarm the timid, or seduce the wavering who have an inclination in this direction, we feel the most perfect satisfaction in calling their attention, to the unswerving energy of the Anti-Corn-Law League, in England, which began its operations, according to Mr. Cobden's own statement, with only two or three obscure individuals for its supporters, in the back parlour of a building, equally as obscure, and which, in the end, in spite of the tremendous influence of the landed aristocracy, mounted, from year to year, by majorities of the House of Commons, equally overwhelming, gained one of the greatest victories in favor of the industrial classes, that was ever recorded in the annals of British Legislation.—*Toronto Independent.*

PROTEST AGAINST THE MONTREAL MANIFESTO.—On Saturday last, a meeting of a few gentlemen was held in the Grand Jury Room, in this city, when Mr. Sheriff Jarvis was called to the Chair, and Mr. Angus Morrison requested to act as Secretary. The object of the meeting was to consider what steps should be taken in regard to the Declaration against Annexation which has been lying at several of our stores for signature. After some discussion, the following form of Protest was adopted:—

"We, the undersigned, inhabitants of the City of Toronto and the Home District, having learned from the public Press that a document has been circulated for signatures in and about the City of Montreal, advocating the Annexation of Her Majesty's Province of Canada to a Foreign State—do, hereby, without reference to local or party politics, protest against any such proceeding—to deny emphatically the truth of many of the statements as which that document is based, especially that which asserts the general depression of the Province, which we believe to be greatly exaggerated, if not exclusively applicable to Montreal;—to declare our unwavering attachment to our connexion with Great Britain—the high value we place upon our position as British subjects, and our firm determination to resist all attempts at severing with our allegiance, or transferring us from the mild and just rule of our Gracious Sovereign to the United States of America or any other Foreign Power."

The meeting adjourned to Monday, to allow time for preparation. On Monday the meeting re-assembled, and the following gentlemen were named as a Committee to obtain signatures, with the understanding that they should meet daily, at three o'clock, p. m., at the same place:—

W. B. Jarvis, Hon. James Gordon, Dr. Conney, J. G. Spragge, W. C. Gwynne, Peter Brown, J. Hillyard Cameron, Joseph C. Morrison, W. Proudfoot, Charles Berczy, W. L. Perrin, Henry Sherwood, A. Morrison, John Duggan, Fred'k Widder, W. Gooderham, James Shaw, Alex'r Macdonell, Robert E. Burns, W. C. Keefer, Charles Jones, James Mitchell, R. Irving, George Brock, Robert Cooper, J. Macdougall, Colonel O'Brien, M. J. O'Beirne, John Shaw.

Copies of the Protest were also directed to be left at the following places for the convenience of parties desirous of signing it, viz., at the Bank of Upper Canada, Commercial Bank, British North American Bank, Montreal Bank, Shaw, Turnbull & Co.'s, Hugh Miller's, Alex. Macpherson's, Scobie & Balfour's, H. Rowsell's, Mrs. Dunlop's, News Room, Grand Jury Room, and all the principal Hotels in the city.

We must not be understood as desirous to defeat or impede this particular movement, when we say, that the Protest is somewhat overstrained in its language, especially in that portion of it which alludes to the exaggerated statements of the Montreal Manifesto, respecting commercial depression. It has come to our knowledge, that several gentlemen have hesitated to sign a documents which plainly infers, that the signers are personally ignorant of the existence of any kind or degree of commercial depression, out of Montreal. How can the merchants of Toronto endorse such a statement, when it is perfectly well known that for the last two years they have suffered one continued spasm of commercial depression? How can the members of the Corporation, and those gentlemen who accompanied them to present their Address to Lord Elgin, which, adopting the words of the original Address got up at the joint meeting of Reformers and Conservatives, stated that "the city of Toronto has not escaped the commercial depression which has for some time so generally prevailed,"—how, we ask, can they consent to give currency to the manifest delusion contained in the words—"*if not exclusively applicable to Montreal?*"

If the gentlemen who adopted the Protest, are not anxious to make themselves ridiculous, and thus put weapons into the hands of the Annexationists, they will take the first opportunity of reducing their language to the simple, unmistakeable truth; which we contend that they have, perhaps inadvertently, in this case failed to do.

The next two sentences in the Protest are also, we think, somewhat unsound; they seem to imply that Great Britain has given her Colonies no cause of complaint, and that, however ill-treated the Colonists may be, they would rather perish than murmur at her injustice. Seriously, we do not think such language either wise or necessary. The loyalty of the Colonies has been of an almost excessive character, and they have been insulted for it. Is this a time to utter such wholesale adulation as is contained in this Protest? If so, then then are the complaints of a hundred thousand Canadian loyalists a hideous distortion!

We call upon Conservatives of all ranks to pause before they sign the Protest in its present form. Those who have signed it without due consideration, should insist upon an alteration in the language, to make it consistent with the truth, or cancel their signatures forthwith.—*Toronto Patriot.*

ANNEXATION IN UPPER CANADA.

(Toronto Correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune.

TORONTO, Oct. 10, 1849.

The Manifesto of the Montreal Annexationists is everywhere the absorbing topic of conversation. The views upon the subject are various, but those favouring Annexation are the only ones making real progress. It is remarkable that this Annexation Manifesto has nowhere been received with anything like genuine feelings of indignation; not that the principles enumerated in the document meet a general approval, but the feelings of loyalty and allegiance, which must be finally extinguished by the general adoption of Annexation doctrines, are not so strong as to resent as unkind the proposition to cut the existing connection of this Province with the Mother Country. While the most paltry questions connected with Provincial politics and parties are sufficient to raise a whirlwind of the fiercest passions, the idea of Annexation does not overcome the equanimity of anybody. The opposition to the Montreal movement, in Western Canada, is cold, hesitating, spiritless and much of it hypocritical. There is doubtless some sincerity in the feeble opposition offered.—The officials go for things as they are. We must however, deduct from their apparent zeal for British connexion a considerable allowance, in consideration of the large salaries of which they are now in receipt, and of which Annexation would deprive them. The first question with these gentlemen is how are they to meet the Annexation discussion? The idea of bringing the terrors of the law to bear against the progress of this question, and to crush the agitation in the bud, has been hinted at by some of the most efficient organs of the Government. A new Annexation journal is to be issued in this city next week, and there are some faint whisperings about arresting it in the accomplishment by an indictment before the Grand Jury now sitting. But it is quite clear that the discussion of the question cannot be stopped by any such means; and indeed it is very doubtful if the Grand Jury, Tory though it is, would find any bill for sedition on such an indictment. The question of independence must be decided on its own merits. To settle the question of Annexation will require the consent of the three countries—Canada, England, and the United States.

Mr. Baldwin, the leader of the party in power, who is very liberal in profession while in opposition, but whose real principles are those of a high-toned English Whig, has come out with a sort of counter-manifesto, in the shape of a letter, in which he exorcises from his party all the abettors who shall dare to wag a little finger in favour of Annexation. The letter is addressed to Mr. Perry of Whitby, to whom rumor had ascribed an intention to offer himself for the suffrages of the Third Riding of York, (now left without a representative by the appointment to the Chancery Court of Mr. Blake,) on the Annexation ticket. The document makes no allusion to Mr. Perry's supposed predilections in favor of a union with the United States, but the exercism applies to all the stragglers of the party. It will have no influence, nor change the opinion, nor prevent a change in the opinion, of any one. The fact is that Perry, who is thus assumed to be an annexationist, could get two votes to Mr. Baldwin's one in the county for which he is expected to offer. The election will soon test the strength of Annexation tendencies in this part of the Province. No doubt is entertained, by those who know the constituency of Mr. Perry's success; while it is quite certain that Dr. Connor of the law firm, Blake, Morrison & Co. and a nominee of Baldwin's, would not have the slightest chance of success.

The Annexation mania will spread like wild-fire from one end of the country to the other. The old parties are in many confusion, and will soon be annihilated and forgotten. Instead of Tories

MONTREAL for the Steamer ALLIANCE, BARGES, and all applications for FREIGHT, &c., must be made to him.

ROBERT NELSON, Agent.

Office, 59, Commissioners Street.

Montreal, May 1, 1849.

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