

british subjects, but have been in a great measure excluded from the benefits of civil government, in consequence of the utter disregard of their wants, as well as their rights, by the majority of that legislature.

"That this meeting are of opinion that, without the benefit of the proposed union, the industry and enterprise of the inhabitants of the townships will continue to be crippled and rendered unavailing and unproductive to this province, and to the mother country, with the humiliating and painful prospect, in the view of the present inhabitants, that their posterity may be doomed to acquire the language and assume the manners and character of a foreign people.

That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the proposed union would, in its consequences, gradually remove the prejudices and distinctive marks which now divide the population of Lower Canada, and render its inhabitants one people, united by their principles, institutions and manners, as they are by their interest.

"That it is the anxious wish of the inhabitants of the townships, when admitted by their representatives to a fair participation in the colonial government, to coalesce with the rest of the population of this province, without distinctions of any kind; and as they have done in time past, demonstrate, not in words, but by their conduct, the invariable loyalty and attachment to his Majesty's government, by which they have never ceased to be actuated.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Grantham, it was resolved,—

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the union of the legislatures of Upper and Lower Canada, proposed by his Majesty's ministers, during the last session of the imperial parliament, is highly expedient not only for the security, improvement and extensive settlement of both provinces, as british colonies, but likewise as the mildest remedy for the intolerable political evils, which, during thirty years, have prevailed in this province.

"That in the opinion of this meeting, the said measure will produce a salutary change in the composition of the house of assembly, which body, under the present constitution, chiefly consists of members of french origin, who, founding their political power as well as their expectations of private interest on the national prejudices of their uneducated countrymen, have studiously discouraged the settlement of Lower Canada, by emigrants of a different origin, possessing the enterprise, perseverance and knowledge which qualify them for the improvement of the country, developing its commercial resources, and rendering it a useful and creditable appendage to the british empire.

"That the Eastern Townships, containing a numerous, educated, and increasing population, are, nevertheless, without a single voice in the provincial legislature, and have likewise, in a great degree, been debarred from the benefits of the civil government; and their wants and their rights have been utterly neglected by the french canadian majority, who have treated their complaints and humble petitions, with opprobrious ridicule or silent contempt.

"That besides regarding the proposed union as the means of speedily relieving these townships from the intolerable privations and political evils under which they labour, this meeting consider it as a proof of