

the proportion of the representation to the population could not be meted out by time, compass, and arithmetical calculations. What would be an ample representation in one country, would not be so in another: in some countries, as in England, perhaps, one member for one hundred thousand might be fair and sufficient, but such a proportion here would only return a house of two members, which would be absurd. The removal of the legislature of Upper Canada would also be a great evil to that province: the Executive must follow the Legislature to Montreal or Quebec; and the expenditure must necessarily be in Lower Canada: this would not only depress the value of property in York, but also in all the upper parts of the province.*

To conclude; as to the differences between the several branches of the legislature of Lower Canada, he would request the House to remember they were called on to accuse the assembly of the Lower province, for *supporting their rights in refusing permanent civil lists*—that they were called upon to accuse the assembly of the sister-province, for *resisting direct taxation* for the purpose of internal improvement, in order that the greater revenue might be at the disposal of the Executive. He reminded the house that they were called on to accuse the sister-assembly for maintaining their rights in raising and appropriating the public money; he would ask them if they were prepared to surrender their rights when they met in the joint legislature. He hoped not. He hoped that the constitution would be the rallying point; they were sent here by the people to be the guardians of that constitution; it was entrusted to their hands in confidence of their fidelity, and he trusted they would never surrender that sacred pledge. If they voted it away this day, it would never again be placed in their hands: it was not a question that would recur every session, on which members might debate and hesitate, might veer and vary, and resolve and re-resolve again—the fatal step once taken could not be recovered. He begged the house to remember the whole country was opposed to an union; and that, if they voted for it, they would vote against the wishes of the people.—Lower Canada also, to a man, disapproved of it; their council and assembly have remonstrated against it, and with what satis-

*It has been contended that matters of local and personal interest ought always to be kept out of sight in the discussion of questions of public expediency; but I say, no. What is the interest of the public, other than an accumulation of all the local, personal, and private interests of all the component parts of that public? every one of these has a right to be heard and weighed; and it is then for the major weight of these aggregate interests to bind the minor.

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