

of their national rights, the preservation of their political autonomy, combat and prevent any aggression that may disturb these guarantees.

The anomaly of our situation has, with respect to us, even changed the signification of the terms of public law. Political Union, which, for other nations means increased force, natural development and concentration of authority, means, for us, feebleness, isolation and menace, and Legislative Union, political absorption !

Before Confederation it was the absorption of the Latin element by the Anglo-Saxon element of two provinces, now it is by that of five.

This union of the two provinces, which, in 1791, was already dreamed of, and which was proposed in 1822, was obtained in 1840, but, fortunately, subsequent events disappointed the sinister anticipations.

The Unionists of 1822, with Chief Justice Sewell at their head, did not however look upon legislative union as the sole means of our destruction. Having failed in their efforts to obtain the measure, they were content to demand the confederation of all the English provinces, with one central government and provincial governments, whose powers would be reduced to those of mere municipalities. The desired result would be the same. In concentrating all or nearly all power in the central government, the influence of the French race—the majority in the Province of Quebec—would be swamped, and by reducing to insignificance the provincial legislatures, this system would finally come to be distasteful, and to it would succeed the Legislative Union of all the confederate provinces.

This is exactly what will happen to-day if the idea of centralization be successful.