

tending even their disorganising effects to Societies for promoting Religion and Education, and for charitable purposes.

We next remark upon the important Act for the Trial of Controverted Elections. This Act, 48, Geo. III., Cap. 21, has been recently repealed by the Act 5, Geo. IV., Cap. 5, which, extending and modifying the previous enactments, gives complete scope to that principle of universal suffrage, which, under the present Constitution, will secure to the French Canadians, an overwhelming Majority in the House of Assembly.

In closing this busy Session, the Governor General, aware of the approaching General Election, did not express that disapprobation of part of the Proceedings of the Assembly, which he must have deeply felt; and he principally called the attention of both Houses, to the uncertain relations existing between Great Britain and the United States, and their duty to fortify the minds of the people with courage and loyalty, for the purpose of defending their Country, and securing the blessings conferred upon them by His Majesty's Government.

Our tenth Chapter commences with describing the Oligarchical Association, called the *Quebec Junta*, which the Government had gradually permitted to be formed, as a kind of defence against the increasing ambition of the House of Assembly. This Junta, closely connected with the Executive, comprised several French Canadian Placemen, and still continues to be a specimen of those anomalous associations, which a defective political Constitution inevitably introduces into any Country; and, in Lower Canada, though many of the Members have been merely actuated by private views, it has never entirely forfeited the confidence of the British Settlers, who have been justly impressed with the opinion, that its influence, on the march of the Administration, was more favourable to them, than the Measures originating in the House of Assembly.

This Oligarchy, consisting of the Executive, the Majority of the Legislative Council, Judges, Crown Lawyers and Placemen, still afforded some protection to British principles and improvement; and it was therefore the constant object of the jealousy of the Majority of the House of Assembly, which jealousy was considerably increased by the countenance which had been given to a Newspaper called the *QUEBEC MERCURY*, wholly printed in the English Language, and occupied with extracts and discussions calculated to show the want of British Laws and improvements. To counteract the influence of this English Press, the French Canadian Leaders, during the Administration of *President Dunn*, established a Newspaper called the *CANADIEN*, printed wholly in French, and entirely devoted to the ambitious views of the Majority of the House of Assembly, which could chiefly be promoted by keeping the whole Province attached to the Laws, Language and Manners which existed at the Conquest, concentrating their Constituents as a separate people, predominating eventually in