

What we have said under the fourth article may be applied and considered as a complete answer to the fifth insinuation, that there is no communion or reciprocal bond of interests between the people of Canada and the British Merchants". Nothing can more clearly prove a common interest, and union than the great advancement of Agricultural or landed property, which Commerce under the direction of British Merchants has caused; the one reciprocally promotes and advances the other; nothing can more forcibly evince a sympathy or fellow feeling for the Canadians as men and Citizens than the friendly respect and social Civility which the British Merchants shew to them all: And to crown all, there cannot in nature be a greater bond of Union between men of different degrees and rank than this, that the British Merchant knows and foresees that he cannot assent to any one Law that will not at some period or other affect himself, his friends, his Relations and descendants, as fully and as effectually as it will any Habitant or Farmer in the Country, a sentiment or reflection it may be very confidently asserted that few Seigneurs ever indulge or wish to indulge, because they expect their descendants, however undeserving, to continue Seigneurs to endless ages. From whence we conclude that there is a greater union of Interests, a more sympathetic feeling and a more equal operation of the Laws between the mass of the people and the Merchants, than between the Mass of the people and the Seigneurs; and therefore the Merchants have a right in common with other Citizens to offer themselves Candidates for representing the people, who, we are bold to assert, will find them to be worthy of their Confidence.

The Merchants disclaim all National distinctions; they view all the people of the Province in no other light than as Canadian Citizens zealously attached to the King and people of Great Britain; the Merchants will continue to form a great and respectable part of Society when the name of Seigneur, it is to be hoped, will only be found in the page of History. To expose the ignorance and folly of the Author of the "AVIS AUX CANADIENS" we shall ask him a few questions which may be very aptly applied on the present occasion.

Who gives Bread to the labouring Poor?

THE MERCHANTS.

Who gives Employment to the numerous Mechanics, Tradesmen and Navigators, with whom the Cities of Quebec and Montreal abound?

THE MERCHANTS.

Who are they that circulate property and diffuse wealth throughout the Country to give life and spirit to Agriculture?

THE MERCHANTS.

Who have been the means of increasing the revenues of the Seigneurs, as well as the value of the Products of the Land to the Habitants?

THE MERCHANTS.

Canadian Citizens, all this you know to be true; and can you be made to believe that the Merchants, whose interests are the same as yours, ought not to be trusted with your votes? Other professions may rise on your ruin, that of the Merchant can only flourish while you prosper; if you are ruined the Merchants are undone; their interests and yours are inseparable; the Seigneurs have *lorded* it over you, and strived to continue it; the Merchants, by their exertions conjointly with your own, have procured you a free Government and equal laws which secure to you the free exercise of your Religion in full force.

To convince you how much we have your interests at heart, and to shew our honest zeal for the welfare and prosperity of the Canadian Citizens, instead of imitating the unworthy example of the Author alluded to, we purpose to point out to you the nature and consequence of an Election, and what are the qualifications that the men (whether merchants or Seigneurs or Nofeigneurs) you shall elect for your Representatives ought to possess.

Probus.

QUEBEC, 21st. MAY, 1792.