

country, and unacquainted with its local circumstances, he finds himself on his arrival immediately surrounded by a few of the principal public officers, in whom he is in a manner bound to place his implicit confidence. They guide his first steps, and it would be almost a miracle if they did not impart to his mind some portion of that partiality, I will not say prejudice that operates on theirs. He must, at least for a while, see thro' their eyes and hear thro' their ears, and his acts are in fact but theirs. By degrees, however, he acquires sufficient personal information to render farther assistance unnecessary; but then when he is arrived to that point where he can promote public and individual welfare, when he is acquainted with the wants of the community and with the respective merits of its members, when he is disposing himself to relieve the one, and to employ individual talents in such manner that the public good may be benefitted by their encouragement and reward, his time is expired and he is superseded by another, who is necessitated to go over the same round again.

But besides these general and principal causes of the disparity between the social state of old established countries and that of their distant colonies, there exist some peculiar to this very Province of Lower Canada, and which militate still more powerfully against its welfare.

The first is its being a conquered Colony. Human pride seems to oppose the intimate amalgamation of conquerors and conquered: every idea of subjection is revolting to it. Thence springs up a kind of ill will, which adds to the pre-existing national prejudices, and of course splits the Community in two distinct parties. This ill will is constantly fed and stimulated by the but too natural partiality which is shewn in the distribution of favors. The best and most lucrative ones, are bestowed on strangers to the soil; the owners of that soil complain of their being neglected; and their discouragement destroys every principle of public spirit in the far greater and more important portion of population. Splashed by the luxury of these strangers, humbled by their inability to vie with those new comers, they shrink from the contest, and withdraw themselves from the theatre whereupon it is displayed: not however without expressing their natural feelings.

The second cause which apparently ought to have counterbalanced the effect of the former one, is, that the inhabitants of this conquered colony have been allowed to preserve their own language, their own religion, their own civil laws, and of course their former usages and manners. The result proves to be the very reverse of that which was expected from those concessions. Their effect has been to keep up the line of demarcation between the conquerors and the conquered still more distinct and clear, and they seem to have erected an effective fence between both, so as to mar their re union.