

the proposed union, to subjugate the liberties of their country.”

“The arguments advanced by some gentlemen, that an union would be the means of excluding American produce from Lower Canada was a lure. What benefit could be derived from such exclusion? Were not all the British West India Islands to be supplied from the same quarter? and would it not be better for both provinces to admit the produce of that country thro’ our waters, whereby we should be benefited by the receipts for duties and transportation, than to allow it to go direct from the United States? Such an argument betrayed the weakness of the unionists, and was only advanced to gull the ignorant.”

“If an union took place would the merchants of Upper Canada buy or sell goods cheaper than they now do? There would be no reduction of prices, and the extortions complained of as practiced by the Montreal merchants would be continued. It was out of the power of the united legislature to protect those who were in debt to the faction below; prices could not be directed by the will of a legislature.”—

“What legislature ever meddled with those matters? The Montréal junto wanted a monopoly of power as well as of commerce. In order to effect their object, they at one time held forth visionary prospects of aggrandisement to Upper Canada, and at another, aspersed them by asserting that the measure was necessary to prevent them from joining the United States—failing in these attempts, they turned about, and, like the viper in the fable which stung the person who cherished it, invite us to unite with them in destroying the anti-commercial, and anti-British spirit of the French Canadians! Nothing, in his opinion, could check the ambitious views of that junto, but an avowed determination to resist their foul and unnatural proceedings: for their object was not confined to the degradation of the French Canadians; it took a wider range, it aimed at the liberties of the people of Upper-Canada, as well as those of Lower Canada, and if their progress was not checked, the hopes, the happiness, and the liberties of both provinces, would sink together into one grave.”

“He had heard many unbecoming observations made against the French Canadians, in the house, and out of the house. It was said they were a conquered race; that they did not know how to enjoy British liberty; that they would, when opportunity served, unite with Old France, and throw off their allegiance to Great Britain.— This kind of language was not dignified, it was offensive, unjust, and unmerited, and should be reprobated by every well-wisher to the peace and harmony of these provinces: they were certainly a conquered people, but was there any disgrace in that? Had not England been conquered more than once? Had not the greatest and most enlightened empires of the universe been overthrown and trampled upon by a race of men, whose information