

Antidote to the effect intended by his Lordship's report, taken from the report itself.

Lord Durham's contrasting picture of the British provinces, and their American neighbours.

Appeal to the farmers residing on the St. Lawrence, on the truth of the above contrast.

Motives of High Commissioner in the above statements not easily understood.

Plan proposed for the future government of these provinces.

Lord Durham professes to submit to Her Majesty and the British nation a true and faithful account of the state and condition of this, as well as of the other British North American provinces, and there is no doubt that it will be promulgated throughout the country by those who are gratified at finding their political principles and theories advocated and sustained by his Lordship, that there is nothing in his report that admits of contradiction, and that whatever discredit may be attempted to be cast upon it, must proceed from disappointment or vindictive feelings. In refutation of this attempt to pervert the truth, if it should be made, your committee invite the attention of the independent yeomanry and hardy husbandmen of Upper Canada to the following paragraph. Having first described the surpassing prosperity of the United States for the purpose of contrasting it with the poverty and inferiority of these colonies, his Lordship proceeds to state: "On the side of both the Canadas, and also of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, a widely scattered population, poor, and apparently unenterprising, though hardy and industrious, separated from each other by tracts of intervening forests, without towns and markets, almost without roads, living in mean houses, drawing little more than a rude subsistence from ill-cultivated land, and seemingly incapable of improving their condition, present the most instructive contrast to their enterprising and thriving neighbours on the American side."

Let the farmers of all political parties residing in the districts fronting on the St. Lawrence, the owners of the extensive, beautiful and well-cultivated lands on the Bay of Quinte, in the district of Newcastle, the Home, Gore, Niagara, London, and Western Districts, read this degrading account of them, and ask themselves whether they would feel perfectly safe in submitting their future political fate, and that of their children, to the dogmas of a man who has so grossly mis-stated their character and condition. If Lord Durham, after travelling up and down the river St. Lawrence, and along the Niagara frontier, seeing, as he must have seen, even within this limited field of observation, farms of unsurpassed beauty and fertility, occupied and excellently worked by yeomanry, who enjoyed every comfort, and whose wealth and independence placed within their reach almost every luxury that could be desired by man, could deliberately pen or promulgate a paragraph such as has been just quoted from his report, surely the people of the country may well hesitate before they place implicit confidence in any statement or opinion that he may advance on any other subject.

Nor is it easy to understand what could have been the motives which induced the High Commissioner to give this character to the rural population of the country. Its inaccuracy could not have proceeded from ignorance or want of information; neither could his Lordship be insensible to the injury it was calculated to bring on this country, by diverting emigration to other shores—perhaps to the highly and extravagantly admired shores of the neighbouring Republic! Your committee, unwilling to entertain this opinion, will pursue the inquiry no further.

Having thus adverted to those portions of the High Commissioner's Report which appeared to your committee most obviously to require explanation and remark, they will bring the duty assigned to them by your honourable House to a close, by briefly stating the plan recommended by his Lordship to be adopted for the future government of these provinces.

It is this: that the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada be forthwith united under one legislature, and that the act of the Imperial Parliament intended to effect this object should contain provisions by which any or all the other North American colonies may, on the application of their legislatures, be with the consent of the two Canadas admitted into the Union.

Representation to be settled according to numbers of the population.

The existing endowments of the Catholic Church in Lower Canada to be guaranteed.

Provision by law for the Protestant Church to be taken away, by a repeal of the clauses of the Constitutional Act which relate to the clergy reserves.

All the revenues of the provinces, except those arising from lands, to be at the disposal of the legislature, upon condition of providing an adequate civil list.

The revenues and disposal of the Crown lands to be confided to the Imperial authority.

The independence of the judges to be secured by giving them the same tenure of office and security of income as exists in England.

In the practice of the government his Lordship advises that no money votes should be allowed without the previous consent of the Crown; and that responsibility to the united legislature of all officers of the government, except the Governor and his Secretary, should be secured by every means known to the constitution.

The Governor, as representative of the Crown, to be instructed that he must carry on his government by heads of departments, in whom the united legislature shall repose confidence; and that he must look for no support from home in any contest with the legislature, except on points involving strictly Imperial interests.

And these several changes his Lordship recommends should be forthwith made, and without any previous communication with this or the other province.

If it were properly within the instruction of your committee to discuss the several propositions of his Lordship for the future government of Her Majesty's subjects in Canada, they would feel themselves in a great degree relieved from doing so. The two points of most importance, viz., the legislative union of the provinces, and the responsibility of the officers of Government to the legislature, have already undergone the most careful investigation, and received the deliberate judgment of your honourable House. The first has, under certain specified conditions, been assented to; the second has been pronounced inconsistent with the dependence of these provinces as colonies upon the mother country. If, in disregard

His Lordship recommends these changes to be made without referring to the provinces previously.

The two main points have been already discussed in the Legislature.