

stitutional experiment in Lower Canada *as it is?* The choice lies between free government with the Union, and a continuance of the present system without it. That the latter might be turned to good account we are by no means inclined to deny; but how much more the former! Few persons, we fancy, can be doubtful to which of the two to give the preference.

In speaking of "improvements of every kind," we must be allowed to enter our strongest protest against being supposed to mean by the word we use nothing more than is commonly meant by it in the newspaper language of the day. It is not of "local improvements" alone, or even mainly, that we speak. Canals, rail-roads, bridges, and so forth, have their uses, which we are far, indeed, from undervaluing; but they are not the one thing, nor the first, which society and government were framed to secure. The improvement of the people themselves is the grand object to be had in view; the more intelligent and honest administration of their local affairs—the economical employment of their various resources, individual and social, to promote their own welfare—the general diffusion among them of sound views and right feelings. Improvement of this sort once in progress, "local improvements" will go on fast enough. The greater always includes the less.

Of the tendency of the Union to assimilate the two races in the Lower Province to one another, and to the more enterprising population of Upper Canada, we have already said as much as our limits allow, though less than the importance of the subject would otherwise demand. For the present we must be content with merely repeating the remark, that this assimilation is a necessary condition of that general progress of improvement which we have just been anticipating; and that, as it cannot fail to benefit in an equal degree all classes of the community, all should alike show themselves disposed, to the extent of their ability, to aid in promoting it.

On this last point, too much stress cannot possibly be laid. The press and the public have their duties; and let the Government discharge its share of duty as it may, the public good demands that these also be discharged no less faithfully. If the general temper of the public mind in Lower Canada, and the consequent tone of the press, are still to remain after the Union, what they are at present,—if the

violent animosities to which long years of strife have most unhappily given rise, are still to be exasperated by the perpetual use of contemptuous and exciting language, such as that strife has rendered but too common,—if the people and their newspapers are thus to counteract the best efforts of the Government in their behalf,—even the Union cannot yield them the half of those advantages which it is otherwise calculated to produce. Nor let any one for a moment fancy, that it is merely the press that has been to blame in this matter, and what is wanting is simply a change of language on the part of the few individuals who conduct it. In a matter of this kind, the press, however it may in its turn influence public opinion, takes its tone from it in the first instance. Newspapers print what the public are disposed to pay for. Their conductors have no superhuman power of creating a demand for political views, in which their readers do not already, to a considerable extent, sympathise. Let intelligent men generally, exert their influence in society, to discountenance those rabid effusions of partisan silliness, to which too many of them at present listen with what is very apt to be taken for tacit approval, and our word for it, the conductors of the public press will not be slow to profit by the opportunity, and to prove that, as a class, they are to the full as intelligent, as capable of entertaining moderate and judicious views, and as heartily disposed to express them in judicious language, as any other class in the community can be.

The moderation we are recommending, is of two kinds; moderation, first, as regards past feuds, which cannot be too soon ended and forgotten,—and secondly, as regards the various measures of the Government, from time to time brought forward with a view to the recovery of the country, from the state to which those feuds have reduced it. The two races *must* live together in Lower Canada; and they cannot, therefore, too soon begin to understand one another, and live together in peace. We are not Utopian enough to suppose the change can be effected all at once; but we know well, that it must one day or other be brought about, that no time can ever be better than the present for beginning it, and that no other parties can have so deep an interest in at once themselves beginning it, as those whom it will first affect. For a time, it may not be an altogether popular task, to endeavour to remove exist-