CANADIAN POLITICS.

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

The number and magnitude of the evils that afflict our country, and the universal and increasing depression of its material interests, call upon all persons animated by a sincere desire for its welfare to combine for the purposes of inquiry and preparation with a view to the adoption of such remedies as a mature and dispassionate investigation may suggest.

Belonging to all parties, origins and creeds, but yet agreed upon the advantage of co-operation for the performance of a common duty to ourselves and our country, growing out of a common necessity, we have consented, in view of a brighter and happier future, to merge in oblivion all past differences of whatever character, or attributable to whatever source. In appealing to our fellow-colonists to unite with us in this most needful duty, we solemnly conjure them, as they desire a successful issue and the welfare of their country, to enter upon the task at this momentous crisis in the same fraternal spirit.

The reversal of the ancient policy of Great Britain whereby she withdrew from the Colonies their wonted protection in her markets, has produced the most disastrous effects upon Canada. In surveying the actual condition of the country, what but ruin or rapid decay meets the eye? Our Provincial Government and Civic Corporations embarrassed; our Banking and other securities greatly depreciated; our mercantile and agricultural interests alike unprosperous; real estate scarcely saleable upon any terms; our unrivalled rivers, lakes and canals almost unused; whilst commerce abandons our shores; the circulating capital amassed under a more favorable system dissipated, with none from any quarter to replace it!! Thus, without available capital, unable to effect a loan with Foreign States, or with the Mother Country, although offering security greatly superior to that which readily obtains money both from the United States and Great Britain when other than colonists are the applicants:—crippled, therefore, and checked in the full career of private and public enterprise, this possession of the British Crown—our country—stands before the world in humiliating contrast with its immediate neighbors, exhibiting every symptom of a nation fast sinking into decay.

With superabundant water power and cheap labour, especially in Lower Canada, we have yet no domestic manufactures; nor can the most sanguine, unless under altered circumstances, anticipate the home growth, or advent from foreign parts, of either capital or enterprise to embark in this great source of national wealth. Our institutions, unhappily, have not that impress of permanence which can alone impart security and inspire confidence, and the Canadian market is too limited to tempt the foreign capitalist.

While the adjoining States are covered with a net-work of thriving railways, Canada possesses but three lines, which, together, scarcely exceed fifty miles in length, and the stock of two of which is held at a depreciation of from 60 to 80 per cent. —a fatal symptom of the torpor overspreading the land.

Our present form of Provincial Government is cumbrous and so expensive as to be ill suited to the circumstances of the country, and the necessary reference it demands, to a distant Government, imperfectly acquainted with Canadian affairs, and somewhat indifferent to our interests, is anomalous and irksome. Yet in the event of a rupture between two of the most powerful nations in the world, Canada would become the battle-field and the sufferer however little her interest might be involved in the cause of quarrel or the issue of the contest.

The bitter animosities of political parties and factions in Canada, often leading to violence, and, upon one occasion, to civil war, seem not to have abated with time; nor is there, at the present moment, any prospect of a diminution or accommodation. The aspect of parties become daily more threatening towards each other, and under our existing institutions and relations, little hope is discernable of a peaceful and prosperous administration of our affairs, but difficulties will, to all appearance, accumulate until government become impracticable. In this view of our position, any course that may promise to efface existing party distinctions, and place entirely new issues before the people, must be fraught with undeniable advantages.

Among the statesmen of the Mother Country—among the sagacious observers of the neighboring Republic—of Canada—and in all British North America—amongst all classes there is a strong pervading conviction that a political revolution in this country is at hand. Such forebodings cannot readily be dispelled, and they have, moreover, a tendency to realize the events to which they point. In the meanwhile, serious injury results to Canada from the effect of this anticipation upon the more desirable class of settlers who naturally prefer a country under fixed and permanent forms of government to one in a state of transition.

Having thus adverted to some of the causes of our present evils, we would consider how far the remedies ordinarily proposed possess any rational inducements to justify their adoption.

1.—"The revival of protection in the markets of the United Kingdom."

This, if attainable in a sufficient degree, and guaranteed unalterable for a long period of years, would ameliorate the condition of many of our chief interests, but the policy of the empire forbids the anticipation. Besides, it would be but a partial and temporary remedy. The millions of the Mother Country demand cheap food; and a second change from protection to free trade would complete that ruin which the first has done much to achieve.

2.—"The protection of home manufactures."

Although this might encourage the growth of a manufacturing interest in Canada, yet, without access to the United States market, there would not be a sufficient expansion of that interest from the want of consumers to work any result that could be admitted as a "remedy" for the numerous evils of which we complain.

3.—"A federal union of the British American Provinces."

The advantages claimed for that arrangement are free trade between the different Provinces, and a diminished governmental expenditure. The attainment of the latter object would be problematical, and the benefits anticipated from the former might be secured by legislation under our existing system. The markets of the sister Provinces would not benefit our trade in timber, for they have a surplus of that article in their own forests; and their demand for agricultural products would be too limited to absorb our means of supply. Nor could Canada expect any encouragement to her manufacturing industry from those quarters. The federal union, therefore, would be no remedy.

4.—"The Independence of the British North American Colonies as a Federal Republic."

The consolidation of its new institutions from elements hitherto so discordant—the formation of treaties with foreign powers—the acquirement of a name and character among the nations—would, we fear, prove an over-match for the strength of the new Republic. And having regard to the powerful confederacy of States conterminous with itself, the needful military defences would be too costly to render independence a boon, whilst it would not, any more than a federal union, remove those obstacles which retard our material prosperity.

5.—"Reciprocal free trade with the United States, as respects the products of the farm, the forest and the mine."

If obtained, this would yield but an instalment of the many advantages which might be otherwise secured. The free interchange of such products would not introduce manufactures to our country. It would not give us the North American Continent for our market. It would neither so amend our institutions as to confer stability or ensure confidence in their permanence; nor would it allay the violence of parties, or, in the slightest degree, remedy many of our prominent evils.

6.—Of all the remedies that have been suggested for the acknowledged and insufferable ills with which our country is afflicted, there remains but one to be considered. It propounds a sweeping and important change in our political and social condition, involving considerations which demand our most serious examination. This final remedy consists in a "friendly and peaceful separation from British connexion, and a Union upon equitable terms with the great North American Confederacy of Sovereign States."

We would premise that towards Great Britain we entertain none other than sentiments of kindness and respect. Without her consent we consider separation as neither practicable nor desirable. But the Colonial policy of the Parent State, the avowals of her leading statesmen, the public sentiments of the Empire, present unmistakeable and significant indications of the appreciation of Colonial connexion. That it is the resolve of England to invest us with the attributes and compel us to assume the burdens of independence is no longer problematical. The threatened withdrawal of her troops from other colonies—the continuance of her military protection to ourselves only on the condition that we shall defray the attendant expenditure, betoken intentions toward our country, against which it is weakness in us not to provide. An overruling conviction, then, of its necessity, and a high sense of the duty we owe to our country, a duty which we can neither disregard nor postpone, impel us to entertain the idea of separation; and whatever negotiations may eventuate with Great Britain, a grateful liberality on the part of Canada should mark every proceeding.

The proposed union would render Canada a field for American capital, into which it would enter as freely for the prosecution of public works and private enterprise, as into any of the present States. It would equalise the value of real estate upon both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada, whilst, by giving stability to our institutions, and introducing prosperity, it would raise our public, corporate and private credit. It would increase our commerce both with the United States and foreign countries, whilst it would not necessarily diminish to any great extent our intercourse with Great Britain, into which our products would, for the most part, enter on the same terms as at present. It would render our rivers and canals the highway for the immigration to, and exports from the West, to the incalculable benefit of our country. It would also introduce manufactures into Canada as rapidly as they have been introduced into the Northern States; and to Lower Canada especially, where water privileges and labour are abundant and cheap. It would attract manufacturing capital, enhancing the value of property and agricultural produce, and giving remunerative employment to what is at present a comparatively non-producing population. Nor would the United States merely furnish the capital for our manufactures. They would also supply for them the most extensive market in the world, without the intervention of a Custom House Officer. Railways would forthwith be constructed by American capital as feeders for all the great lines now approaching our frontiers; and railway enterprise in general would doubtless be as active and prosperous among us as among our neighbours. The value of our agricultural produce would be raised at once to a par with that of the United States, whilst agricultural implements and many of the necessaries of life, such as tea, coffee and sugar, would be greatly reduced in price.

The value of our timber would also be greatly enhanced by free access to the American Market, where it bears a high price, but is subject to an onerous duty. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that our shipbuilders, as well at Quebec as on the Great Lakes, would find an unlimited market in all the ports of the American continent. It cannot be doubted but that the shipping trade of the United States must greatly increase. It is equally manifest that, with them, the principal material in the construction of ships is rapidly diminishing, while we possess vast territories covered with timber of excellent quality, which would be equally valuable as it is now, since under the free trade system our vessels would sell as well in England after annexation as before.

The simple and economical State Government, in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguishing feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbrous and expensive.

In place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbour, there would be peace and amity between this country and the United States. Disagreements between the United States, and her chief if not only rival among nations, would not make the soil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their disputes, as under our existing relations must necessarily be the case. That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a fore-doomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

But other advantages than those having a bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contests between races and parties, allay and obliterate those irritations and conflicts of rancor and recrimination, which have hitherto disfigured our social fabric. Already, in anticipation, has its harmonious influence been felt—the harbinger, it may be hoped, of a lasting oblivion of dissensions among all classes, creeds and parties in the country. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth.

We have, now, no voice in the affairs of the Empire, nor do we share in its honours or emoluments. England is our *Parent* State, with whom we have no *equality*, but towards whom we stand in the simple relationship of obedience. But as citizens of the United States, the public service of the nation would be open to us,—a field for high and honorable distinction on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of *perfect equality*.

Nor would the amicable separation of Canada from Great Britain be fraught with advantages to us alone. The relief to the Parent State from the large expenditure now incurred in the military occupation of the country,—the removal of the many causes of collision with the United States, which result from the contiguity of mutual territories so extensive,—the benefit of the larger market which the increasing prosperity of Canada would create, are considerations which, in the minds of many of her ablest Statesmen, render our incorporation with the United States a desirable consummation.

To the United States also the annexation of Canada presents many important inducements. The withdrawal of so powerful a nation from their borders, by whom in time of war the immense and growing commerce of the lakes would be jeopardized—the ability to dispense with the costly but ineffectual revenue establishment over a frontier of many hundred miles—the large accession to their income from our Customs—the unrestricted use of the St. Lawrence, the natural highway from the Western States to the ocean, are objects for the attainment of which the most substantial equivalents would undoubtedly be conceded.

FELLOW-COLONISTS.—We have thus laid before you our views and convictions on a momentous question—involving a change, which, though contemplated by many of us with varied feelings and emotions, we all believe to be inevitable;—one of which it is now our duty to provide for, and lawfully to promote.

We have addressed you without prejudice or partiality,—in the spirit of sincerity and truth—in the interest solely of our common country,—and our single aim is its safety and welfare. If to your judgment and reason our object and aim at this time is deemed laudable and right, we ask an oblivion of past dissensions; and from all, without distinction of origin, party or creed, that earnest and cordial co-operation in such lawful, prudent, and judicious means, as may best conduct us to our common destiny.

Signed by John Torrence, Jacob DeWitt, M. P. P.; J. Reapath, John Molson, David Torrence, William Workman, D. L. Macpherson, Thomas B. Anderson, L. H. Holton, J. G. Mackenzie, Robert Mackay, Benjamin Holmes, M. P. P.; David Kinnear, John Rose, Q. C.; John Glass, F. G. Johnson, Q. C.; Dr. McCulloch, and 318 others.

From the Montreal Gazette, October 11.

To-day we publish a document of no mean importance in the history of Canada.

The chief and emphatic declaration to be drawn from it is, that a great portion of the men of wealth and standing among the inhabitants of British origin in Montreal, have arrived deliberately at the conclusion, that the Colonial connexion ought to be dissolved.

The sudden and private manner in which the document has been got up, is not in its favor as to ultimate success with the people generally; nor is the style of the document such as severe criticism would pass unnoticed; but the fact that so many people of the highest respectability and influence could so readily have set their signatures to it, and many persons, in their haste to sign anything for Annexation, to have done so without reading it, is ominous to the continuance of British power on this Continent.

There are many matters spoken of in the document, which are susceptible of amelioration by the action of the colony alone; some by the action of the mother country; and some by the joint action of the colony and the mother country together.

Taken *ensemble*, and as they stand without remedy, the gentlemen who have signed the address hold them sufficient to justify the dismemberment of the Empire, and despairing of their remedy, they are prepared to demand it.

Of the sincerity of these gentlemen to attain their end, it is as impossible to doubt, as of their conviction that the end attained would be for the lasting benefit of Canada. It is in this persuasion, that they have submitted their views to the people of this country; and as it was necessary that some beginning should be made, they have made it in its present form.

We think that they have erred in this,—and that their error is material to their speedy success. We are of opinion, that in the great affairs of Government, and still more in the very grave matter of a total revolution of a country, connected as it is especially with the greatest empire in the world, the *manner* of approaching the question is of as much importance as the *matter*, on which its decision is to be determined.

The interests of every man in this colony,—of many in the United Kingdom,—are deeply at stake. The proper way, therefore, to commence the formal portion of the proceedings clearly was, by some open authorised delegation of authority from the people generally, for persons in whom they had confidence to take direction of the movement. The preparation and issue of a document from a known responsible source, would have been much more satisfactory generally, more likely to be received with confidence, and to carry weight at a distance.

While thus stating, from conscientious motives of duty, what we consider a more proper course than that now adopted, we are free to admit that no document could have received more respectable signatures in the city of Montreal, however authenticated, or by whosesoever authority drawn up.

From the same conscientious motives, however, we feel it incumbent upon us to say, that we are unable to go so fast as the signers of the manifesto in question.

We have to confess with deep sorrow that we see little prospect of these dependencies being long preserved to Great Britain, unless a very great change come over the people at home. We, therefore, do not feel opposed to the ultimate decision of Fate, when the time shall come.

But this colony has received many and great favors at the hands of England; we say so, while we readily admit that she has committed blunders, but from the best of wishes for our welfare, up to a very late period. In separating from her, accordingly, it is our duty, in consideration of the obligations we owe to the nations of the Earth, as well as those we owe to England, to ourselves, and to posterity, to show that no light reason has actuated us. In such a weighty question, the largest views of moral and social obligation must be taken; and we must come before the world with grounds which the world will sustain as sufficient to justify our proceedings.

Now, we have no direct, positive cause of quarrel with Great Britain, arising from acts of oppression, rapacity, injustice or incompetency. All the difficulty we pretend to have, arises from commercial regulations, aggravated lately to one part of the population, it is true, by partial injury, and to a certain extent insult; but these are open to revision and amendment. We therefore, held that we are bound as subjects of the Queen of England, and as members of human society, to exhaust all means of alleviation for our miseries,—if so strong a term be required,—before we can with propriety rupture all the ties now existing between Canada and the empire.

In making these remarks, we cheerfully acknowledge the great weight and influence which the names to the Manifesto must give it; nor do our final views differ materially from those who have signed it. It is only from an anxiety to proceed with due caution, and with a proper regard to the effect, that the action of Montreal ought to have upon the country, that we take it upon us to state what, according to our views, would be the preferable course to take in the business. We may be wrong, but we are satisfied that there is a large number of the inhabitants of Montreal who entertain the same opinions; and we need hardly point out the importance of all parties, entertaining common ultimate ideas on this subject, being conciliated and uniting together to give effect to their common wishes.

We abstain from making any strictures on the Manifesto itself at present, for many reasons, the most powerful of which is, that we desire that England should be told precisely and emphatically what the people of Canada stand in want of, and that there should be no division among us in doing so.

All men may be satisfied that the separation from the Mother Country, and the formation of new relations, are things which will not be, and cannot be, done but with time. To hurry is to defeat.

The same paper, in the course of an extended article, the next day, in which it complains of the manner in which the address was prepared, and the signatures to it obtained, says:—

"But after all, the alarming fact for the British public to consider—if they can be brought to consider anything relating to the colonies—is not so much the peculiar merits or demerits of the address, nor the manner in which it may have been circulated or signed, but that so many gentlemen of high standing in Montreal had readily come forward to demand a separation of the colony from the Empire. That is, as the London Times would say, a "*Great Fact*."

"The agitation may now be fairly said to have begun. The errors of the address will be got over, the mistake in the way of submitting it may be done away with, and a correct shape will doubtless be given to the movement ultimately; but the leaders may depend upon it, they have work before them."

We may add to the above the following from an article in the Montreal Herald, published before the publication of the address:—

"If we have reason to wish for an incorporation with the States of the American Union, like reason prompts us to desire that this incorporation should take place as speedily as possible. A state of political transition is a state of personal and social misery. Here is no tranquillity—no improvement. It is of the utmost importance for the inhabitants of Canada, as the world believes they are about to pass through a revolution, that they should do it at once. But it is hardly less desirable that there should be no unnecessary delay, if we look to the interest of Great Britain, and to the continuance of that affection for her which a majority of the colonists still entertain and still desire to preserve. We would bring about the inevitable separation, by reason, and with good will. Nothing could be more disastrous than the prolongation of a state of sullen discontent, till, having become utterly unbearable, some pretext should be seized on as an excuse to inflame men's minds to hatred and armed opposition. Nothing is more to be avoided than the continuance of depression and misery, till an army of invaders should be received as deliverers."

THE MONTREAL ADDRESS.—The following remarks are from an article in the Montreal "Pilot" of the 11th inst.:—

"The tone and temper of the document [the address] which recommends so important a change, is, we willingly admit, unexceptionable, and the parties whose names are appended to it are highly respectable. It must, however, be admitted, on a cursory perusal of the names, that in no respect can they be considered entitled to represent more than their own individual opinions—that, to use their own words, they belong to "all parties, origins, and creeds." It is a sprinkling from every party, every origin, and every creed—the tit-bits and delicate morsels of each—but certainly not the bone and sinew of any. It will be seen that we have no desire to detract from the moral influence to which the opinions of these gentlemen is fairly entitled—we merely make this observation to show, that the object for which an agitation is now sought to be created, is not, so far as this document may be considered an index, supported by any of the great political parties of the country.

We know that there are persons who are loud and vehement in their declamations against party government; but all men of sense, and with moderate powers of observation, must be aware, that in all free States government has ever been, and will ever be, conducted by and through parties; and that the cry of no party is used merely as a claptrap, with a view to construct a platform on which to elevate a new party.

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Let any one examine the list of subscribers to the "Address," and say wether any thing can be conceived more preposterous than such a fusion of parties. The warp—that which may be said to give shape to the fabric—is high rampant Toryism; the weft—that which forms the pattern and lends ornament and grace—is in fact composed of a few scattered threads of British, Irish, French and American Liberalism. The latter portion resembles much the flies in amber, which the poet "wonders how the d——l they got there."

We know that it will be said, as it is indeed said in the Address, that the question is to be approached without reference to party, in a "fraternal spirit," "with sentiments of kindness and respect towards Great Britain;" but the framers, who, we doubt not, are men of sense and judgment, know well that such a question can never be agitated in any such amiable spirit. They in their own hearts despise the flimsy veil which they cast over their pretensions. They know well that this affected moderation is a mere cobweb on which to catch unwary flies. The fact is, that the leaders of the movement—the few who have concocted the Address—are thorough party men, and act to serve their party purposes. Nay more, they have no confidence in each other; they feel that they have not a single view in common; and each section of them anticipates the time when he will either desert his fellows, or be deserted by them. The very terms of the Address—the vague generalities in which it is couched—its "no party" pretentions—all speak this fact; all denote that its issuers have no principle of cohesion amongst themselves."

From the Quebec Chronicle, October 15.

The idea with which some are impressed that Great Britian will give up Canada at the request of the colonists, we do not entertain; to us the supposition appears most unreasonable. There is a class, a powerful and influential class of persons in Great Britain, who are perfectly indifferent about the retention of the colonies, because they, as a class, derive no greater benefit from Her Majesty's possessions abroad than they do from foreign possessions, if as much. But there is another class in Great Britain, the most influential, the all powerful class, the hereditary and estated aristocracy—lords and lairds—the owners of the soil, who believe that they have an interest in the preservation of the empire in all its integrity; and they have sufficient influence to prevent the donation of Canada to the Canadians. Those parties believe that Canada is their property; and they assuredly will not part with it unless by force. Canada is a depot for British troops, troops officered for the most part by the sons of noblemen or estated gentlemen; Canada finds employment for numbers of British subjects related to the wealth and influence of the mother country; Canada, like other colonies, is of importance to the imperial government in the way of patronage, for as in the United States the home civil officers of government are changed, on a change of ministry, so in Great Britain the *colonial* officers are changed.

The colonies are useful in rewarding political friends. Is it then within the bounds of probability that, even on the demand of *all* Canada, Great Britain would consent to separation, either with a view to independence and the formation of an antagonistic nation to the United States, or with the view of strengthening her most powerful rival?—This Great Britain will never do. The colonies have been treated with indifference, and so long as they remain colonies will be *indifferently* treated; it is only natural, and should be expected. As colonies, we are no cause of anxiety, unless when threatening to remain colonies no longer; but as an independent nation, or part of an independent nation, we would be closely watched, lest our independent policy should be prejudicial to British interests. It is only because we are British that Britain never thinks of us; not because we are supposed to be of little consequence. And in that way we as colonists suffer. The time will no doubt be when Canada will demand a separation; but even then Great Britain will refuse, so long as there is a shadow of a chance of retaining the colony; the desire in Great Britain will be for its retention. Were *this* Province, however, fully prepared to demand a separation, it is probable enough that in spite of anything that might be done to prevent it on the part of the mother country, we should gain our end; although the President of the United States might even issue a proclamation, as General Taylor has done in the case of the armed expedition designed to liberate Cuba from Spain, with the view of preventing even voluntary aid being rendered to us from the United States, still thousands of sympathisers would cross the frontier to do battle for liberty—as it is called. We do not speak of the probability or improbability of having independence or annexation in the event of our being inclined for it, even to the death; but if the passion is only that of the hour, and there is no earnestness about us, no unanimity, all the declared opinions in the world about its being for the good of the country, never will induce England to grant us a separation; and we are persuaded there is no present earnest desire for annexation on the part of many people in this Province. Upper Canada is dead against the movement; and we may as well say that Lower Canada is against it. Our grievances have not been such as to make it appear to the religious that annexation is desirable. As Cromwell felt his cause to be righteous; as Cromwell felt he was an instrument in the hand of the Lord to humble kings, so must Canadians feel that their cause is righteous before they can bring themselves to that fervid state, that state of enthusiasm which is necessary for the attainment of any national end. The people of this Province are not so impressed. Many would like independence could they obtain it without trouble, or by agitation, or by petitions; but none are inclined to fight for it, and therefore we believe that *Canada is not prepared*, either for INDEPENDENCE OF ANNEXATION.

We have heard it urged that the standing, the wealth, the respectability of the parties, who have declared themselves in favor of annexation, will have great weight. This we doubt. The standing of Mr. Smith O'Brien and those connected with him in Irish repeal declarations, was fully equal to the standing of the repealers of Canada. Respectability, nor private worth, nor money, is not all that is required to insure success; nor even much towards it—all present respectability, station and wealth, have been obtained as colonists, and argues little, if any thing at all, in favor of a change.

The fact of respectable people seeking change is only proof of their being dissatisfied with things as they are, but is no proof of a change being for the advantage of the country. The document in our opinion would be more valuable without a signature attached to it, if it pointed out much more clearly than it does the benefit which will result from an incorporation with the States. The *bourgeoisie* of Paris were the revolutionists, and they effected *with the aid of the masses* a change; but time has not shown that the change obtained has been of service to France. Indeed since that change took place there have been many desperate and awful scenes; much fighting and little trading. Changes should be well weighed and not hastily effected. The United States have, to use a favorite expression, gone a-head since the revolution; but it must be remembered that prosperity has only succeeded to years of shinplastering and war.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

CANADA ANNEXATION.—We publish to day an address from a large number of citizens of Montreal, to the people of Canada, recommending, as a remedy for the evils that afflict that country, "a friendly and peaceable separation from British connexion, and a union, on equitable terms," with the United States. This paper bears the signature of 335 persons, among whom are prominent men of all parties, both of English and French origin, and we presume it may be taken as expressing the sentiment of the majority of the best informed portion of the population of that city, though by no means the undivided sentiment of any class of citizens. It is the first decisive step in a movement, which although it has been for some time anticipated, we deeply regret, as the commencement of a controversy in the Colonies, in Great Britain, and in the United States, which in our opinion portends no good to either country.

The first thing to be remarked in this document, is the apparent confidence with which it is assumed that Canada, (and as a natural consequence, we presume, the other British Provinces) would be admitted at once, "on equitable terms," into the American Union. It is known of course to the authors of the address, that no State can be admitted to a participation in the privileges of our Constitution, on any other terms than those of entire equality; so that from the moment of the admission of Canada into the Union, as a State, every citizen, whether of English, Scotch, Irish or French origin, would be invested with all the rights, civil and political, enjoyed by any citizen of the oldest State in the Union. So also the State itself, from the date of its admission, would be placed in all respects on an equal footing, according to its population, with the original thirteen States.

The authors of the address appear to be fully sensible of the advantages, to the people, of that, at present, depressed and distracted colony, of such a union, and we fear they attribute to them a more effectual sanative power, for curing the evils which now afflict them, than it can be reasonably anticipated, will be realized in practice. It was not for the parties to the address to set forth the consequences of such a union to the people of these States; but it is our duty duly to consider them.

Before so far multiplying the number of States of our Union as is now proposed, consisting in so large a proportion of people who are strangers to our institutions, and to the qualifications which enable our citizens to support them, it will be well to inquire what proportion of these States can be regarded as competent to carry on the government of the United States on the principles which have preserved this Union, and insured its prosperity, since the establishment of our independence.

We are not disposed to enter into a discussion of this great subject at this time. It involves a momentous question, upon which we trust the people of the country will not commit themselves, without consideration. Independently of the question of the final consequences of the measure, it involves difficulties, in the manner of accomplishing it, of a serious nature. We trust that our citizens will not pursue a course, which will encourage the people of the neighboring Province to the adoption of measures which will involve them in new dissensions and further embarrassments. The authors of the address talk of a friendly and peaceful separation from British connection. We are not aware of any process by which such a separation can take place. There is no precedent of such a transfer, of the allegiance of a great State from one government to another, by an amicable bargain between the three parties. It is not anticipated, we presume, that it will be done by a friendly arrangement, or by a general consent of either of the parties; but it must be done by agitation, and popular excitement. It is not, at any rate, to be anticipated that it can be accomplished by a process which will tend, in any measure, to quiet the animosities and dissensions, which are the chief source of the embarrassments under which the people of that Province are now laboring; but it is likely still further to exasperate those animosities, and to render the dissensions of the rival parties, and distinct races, between which the people are divided, still more incurable.

MONTREAL, Oct. 15.—An annexation protest has been in circulation for signatures, and it is said that only 200 names have been subscribed. The annexation address has 1200 signatures.

MONTREAL, Oct. 16.—The Protest against Annexation, signed by the general members of Parliament, has been published.

The Observer.

SAINT JOHN, OCTOBER 23, 1849.

The English Mail of the 6th inst., per steam ship *Niagara*, was received in this City on Thursday last. The Niagara brought out 154 passengers.

Business matters remain without any improvement. Cotton was dull during the week, and the prices of Breadstuffs had a declining tendency. From the manufacturing districts we learn that trade is by no means brisk.

The Money market has been a shade firmer, cash is still plentiful, and rates of discount remain about the same as the previous week.

The Public Securities continue steady. In the early part of the week the report of a prospective war between Turkey and Russia caused Consols to recede. They have since been steady.

Freights at Liverpool had improved, in consequence of the scarcity of vessels.

The news from the Continent is unimportant, if we except the threatening aspect of affairs between Russia and Turkey. It will be seen by our extracts, that England and France have determined to support the Turks.

The predatory warfare of the people of Morocco against Melilla continues unabated.

It is believed that the affair of Cephalonia has terminated, and that the English squadron has been invited to proceed to the Dardanelles.

ENORMOUS INHERITANCE.—It is said that Lieut. Colonel Gold, of her Majesty's 4th regiment, will come into possession of the enormous wealth left by Mr. Charles Bullen, the late banker of Liverpool. The property is said to amount to between £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 sterling.

It is gratifying to announce the continued decrease of the cholera, more especially in London and Liverpool districts. The daily returns for London were stated to be about fifty to sixty deaths from cholera, and about thirty from diarrhœa. In Liverpool, from ten to twenty. The daily deaths from cholera reported in other parts of England, amount to three or four hundred; in Scotland, they are about fifty.—In Wolverhampton, Dudley, Manchester and Hitchin, the disease still lingers. The total deaths from cholera in England, from 17th September, 1848, to 1st October, 1849, were 14,170, whereof 13,097 have happened since the 17th of June last. This frightful mortality is in addition to the ordinary mortality from other causes.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.—From an analysis of recent returns of rail roads in Great Britain and Ireland, it appears that the number of miles of rail road open for use, on the 30th of June last, was 5,447. The number of passengers conveyed during the preceding half year was 23,704,895. The number of persons killed on the rail roads during that period was 26, and of persons injured 75. Of the persons killed, 12 were passengers, 5 of whom were killed from causes beyond their own control, and 7 in consequence of their own misconduct, or want of caution. Of the other persons killed, 51 were persons in the employ of the railway companies or of contractors, and 21 were trespassers or persons in no way connected with the rail roads, who lost their lives in consequence of improperly crossing or standing on the tracks.

THE DOVER AND CALAIS TELEGRAPH.—The projectors of the line of Telegraph across the British Channel, at Dover and Calais, for uniting the wires which lead from London to Paris, have encountered an obstacle more formidable even than the anchors of the shipping. It is the dredging machines of the oyster boats. This fishing is carried on at that place, by great numbers of dredging boats, which drag up hundreds of oysters at a draft. It is found difficult to protect the electric wire, extended across the bottom of this channel, so as to secure it against being broken by these dredging machines. It is anticipated, however, that some method will be devised of overcoming the obstacle.

Extreme regret has been manifested in England at the misunderstanding between the Governments of France and the U. States, and it is proposed that the British Government mediate between them.

Major Generals Gabriel and Goldie have been placed on the list of General Officers, receiving the unattached pay of 25s. per diem. The latter gallant officer commanded the 11th Regiment, when it marched in 1838 from New-Brunswick to Canada.

The Milan Gazette of the 19th of September, announces the death of the celebrated painter, Bellosio, on the borders of the lake of Como. He was the author of the picture of the "Universal Deluge."

A mass of the private correspondence of Calvin has been discovered in one of the French libraries, and is about to be published.

IMPORTANT NEWS OF SIR J. FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION.

The public will be gratified to learn, from the following official communication from the Admiralty, that there is at last some glimmering of hope as to the safety of the adventurous leaders of the Arctic expedition.

"Admiralty, October 4, 1849.

"From communications made this day to the Lords of the Admiralty, by the editor of the *Shipping and Mercantile Gazette* evening newspaper, some hopes are entertained that the news brought by Captain Parker, of the Truelove, arrived at Hull, from Davis' Straits, of Sir John Franklin's ships having been seen by the natives, as late as March last, beset by the ice in Prince Regent's Inlet, is not without foundation.

"From the same source reports have been received that Sir James Ross's ships are in the south of Prince Regent's Inlet, and that the vessels of both expeditions are safe.

"This hope is somewhat strengthened by the telegraphic message to the Admiralty since received from the Mayor of Hull, where the Truelove arrived last night."

IRELAND.

More collisions between the peasantry and the constabulary have taken place in Ireland. The local papers record some sanguinary conflicts between the tenantry and the landlord for the possession of the corn; and the long-cherished feelings of hatred between the occupier of the soil and the owner have now broken out with a degree of violence which threatens very serious results. Already numerous lives have been lost.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

The Emperor of Russia insists upon the extradition of all the Hungarian and Polish refugees now in the fortress of Widdin. He cares little about Kossuth and the Germans; but the blood of Dembinski, Bem, and their brother Poles he thirsts for like a famished tiger. Instead of building a golden bridge for his enemies over which to retire to the United States, he is hunting them to death, and threatens open war to the Turks if they hesitate to do his bidding. The Turks are as stubborn as in days of old and have firmly refused to yield up the men who have taken sanctuary in their dominions, and Russia has broken off her diplomatic relations with the Porte. England and France, through their representatives, Sir Stratford Canning and Colonel Aupick, at Constantinople, have prevailed with the Sultan in keeping him firm to his first resolution. Already both in France and England cabinet councils have been held to consider these grave circumstances. Not the slightest doubt can be entertained of the result. Should Russia persist in demanding the surrender of these devoted men an European war is inevitable. France and England have no alternative but to support the Sultan. Neither of the two nations will permit Russia to seize the Dardanelles and annex the rich dominions of Turkey to the already vast overgrown empire of Russia.

We are glad to learn that England and France are most cordially united in the determination to support their ambassadors in the advice given by them to the Porte respecting the extradition of the Hungarian refugees.—A note has been drawn up by these two Powers of a most energetic character, which it is thought will have considerable weight with the Emperors of Russia and Austria, to whom it is to be presented. The firm language of the London papers, with reference to this question, is noticed with great satisfaction by the *Debats*.

Although no official notice had been received at Vienna to the 30th ult. of the actual surrender of Comorn, no doubt whatever existed as to the fact itself. The best authorities stated that the act of submission was signed on the 27th ult., and that on the following day General Count Nobili entered the fortress to make the necessary arrangements for its occupation by the Austrians, which was expected to take place on the 29th.

Advices from Pesth of September 26, inform us that the insurgent chiefs Aulich and Kiss had been shot at Arad.

It was reported at Vienna on the 30th ult. that Georgey, the ex-Dictator of Hungary had been shot by Count Edmund Zichy, whose brother was excuted by Georgey's decree at Csepel.

The following highly important Circular was issued from the Treasury Department at Washington on the 15th instant. This new privilege opened to British shipping, if not interfered with by the American Congress during its next session, cannot but prove highly advantageous to the commercial interests of these Provinces. Our vessels will now enjoy a share of the carrying trade between the United States and all other parts of the world.

To the Custom House Collectors.

In consequence of questions submitted by merchants and others, asking, in consideration of the recent alterations of the British Navigation Laws, on what footing the commercial relations between the United States and Great Britain will be placed on and after the first of January next—the day on which the recent act of the British Parliament goes into operation—the Department deems it expedient, at this time, to issue the following general instructions for the information of the officers of the customs and others interested:—

First—In consequence of the alterations of the British Navigation Laws above referred to, British vessels from British or other foreign ports will (under existing laws,) after the first of January next, be allowed to enter in our ports with cargoes of the growth, manufacture, or production of any part of the world.

Secondly—Such vessels and their cargoes will be admitted, from and after the date before mentioned, on the same terms as to duties, imposts and charges, as vessels of the United States and their cargoes.

WM. M. MEREDITH,
Sec'y of the Treasury.

The Mosquito or Nicaragua question is the subject of considerable discussion in the American papers, and some apprehend difficulty with Great Britain on the subject.

We learn that Professor JOHNSTON was at Bathurst early last week, and will visit the North Shore, and Westmorland, in his progress towards St. John.

During the last six months 163,000 emigrants have landed at New York.