

prizing and ambitious American neighbours.* It is often remarked in the States that Canada will be the field where a second Washington will gather his laurels; but this event, I think, will never take place, if the good will of the Canadians is secured. Indeed, as far as I can learn, the people of Upper Canada, who are principally English,† are by no means satisfied with the proposed union on the plan the outline of which has been received in this country. The great distance between the present seats of government would entirely separate the representatives of the Upper Province from their constituents, added to which, the scale of pecuniary property is so inferior to the mother-country, that few members could afford the expenses attendant upon the performance of their duties. Thus, the sprinkling of monied men we have, must be elected, whether congenial to the wishes of the freeholders or not. Certainly this objection might be in some degree obviated, by changing the seat of parliament from Quebec to Montreal.‡

* This they will never do; at least they will never throw themselves into the arms of the Americans, and become incorporated with that nation. If the dreadful and deprecated alternative should ever arrive, when the Canadians must make their choice between submitting to the tyrannic dominion of the Scotch faction, and casting off their cherished connection with, and devoted allegiance to, their sovereign; they will not prove themselves unworthy of their name and station. Should that necessity ever arrive, they will aim at independent empire, and, whether, in conjunction with the rest of the British North-American colonies, or without them, they will, in assuming an independent rank amongst the nations of the earth, remain *English* in principle, *English* in heart, and ready to return even to *English* allegiance, whenever their constitutional rights and liberties are restored to them. The utmost they might do, would be, from the necessity of the case, perhaps, to accept the proffered aid of the Americans in the dreadful struggle; but this they would do, with caution, with jealousy, and repugnance, for oil and vinegar are hardly more irreconcilable than the Gallo-Canadian, and the Anglo American characters.

† See note to No. 34, p. 272.

‡ The English reader will feel more forcibly the force of the objections made to the union on this score, when he reflects that, if the united parliament were to have to meet at Quebec, members would have to travel a distance of between 800 and 900 miles one way from the western district of Upper-Canada, and upwards of 300 miles the other way from the eastern part of Gaspé; and if at Montreal, 700 miles one way, and near 500 the other.