

reputation of an impracticable man—an obstructive—excelling only in opposition and the work of demolition, but utterly incapable of constructing or building up institutions for the permanent advantage of his country. This, indeed, proves his policy, but no lack of talents on the score alluded to. It should be borne in mind, that Mr. Papineau's predilections are avowedly democratic and republican, and his aspirations for the independence of Canada,—sentiments in which certainly there is nothing unnatural nor ignominious, to whatever other objections they may be open,—and therefore that he is by policy, and on principle, an obstructive to all measures of a nature to give permanency to the colonial state, as one which he, at least, deems of minority and of bondage to his native country, and, as such, must desire rather to abridge than perpetuate or prolong. What his abilities to legislate and build up for an independency, had the rebellions resulted in such, might have proved, must remain a problem. But those who have been the best acquainted with Mr. P. will not, I opine, be the most likely to undervalue his talents, or think him deficient even on this head.

In fine, they who have only known Mr. Papineau through his politics and the asperities of public life, in which, perhaps, he has been more inflexible than was consistent with skilful statesmanship, can have no just idea of the many excellent, moral, social and domestic qualities for which in private life he is distinguished. Uniting the erudition of the man of letters with the urbanity of a gentleman; possessing also the highest of conversational powers, and in an eminent degree frank, communicative and convivial, he is, out of politics, all that can be desired, and, in the domestic circle unrivalled for the amenity and kindness of his manners and disposition. Like most men of strong mind and decided character, his resentments are indeed deep and lasting, but, as a set-off to these, such also are his friendships. No more sincere friend can be than Mr. Papineau. In every domestic and social relation, whether as husband, father, citizen, neighbour, companion or friend, all who intimately know, must acknowledge him to be not merely unexceptionable, but exemplary. Of his power and prowess in debate nothing need here be said. Few have ventured to enter the lists and cope with him who have not been flooded in the contest. Expressing himself with equal ease, elegance and energy, in the English as in the French language, his eloquence is at once felt to be of a superior order, grave, dignified and senatorial. He has been, as eminent men ever are, variously represented, according to the prejudices or prepossessions of those who have written of him,—by some as faithless, and little better than a Demon; by others as a political redeemer; and, indeed, by the same individuals very differently at different periods, and under different circumstances. But whatever be his merit or demerit as a politician and statesman, a matter which those who follow us will more correctly decide than we, his cotemporaries can, I have endeavoured—as one of them, unbiassed by any other motive of which I am conscious, than a desire to do common justice to a master-mind and inde-