

government, and it is granted in the only mode consistent with the spirit of British institutions, or worthy of the acceptance of a free people. They have been given a Legislative Union !

Thus the burden of constructing internal communication is made to bear equally and justly; and thus between two contending parties is thrown a third, a powerful peace-maker, too much, far too deeply interested in the preservation of peace and tranquillity to admit of the perpetuation of the quarrel.

The equality of representation enacted by the Union Bill is just; because, although Upper Canada at present has the smaller number of inhabitants, *she has in fact the deeper interest* in the welfare of the United Colony : it is prudent, because Upper Canadians have not joined in the contest between the races, and have no sympathy with the angry passions excited in the quarrel; it is wise, because the arrangement is likely to be the most lasting; for were it otherwise, one year of emigration would have made a change necessary in the representation.

*We think we have shown that Upper Canada* has reason to be satisfied with the Union. We know that many would have desired more favourable terms; but what they required would only have been maintained as visiting the sister Province with punishment, forfeiture, and disfranchisement. Their terms were such as Lower Canada could not have accepted without dishonour, or remained contented with and be worthy of the name of British subjects. We are too well convinced that Acts of Parliament cannot maintain injustice; that political institutions cannot long sustain partiality; and that a people who feel the weight of oppression, cannot feel it a duty to be faithful, to wish for more favourable terms, and we feel that terms less favourable to Upper Canada could not in justice have been awarded.

The great objection to the Legislative Union is found in the great extent of territory to be governed by one Legislature. This, we have no hesitation in saying, will be severely felt so long as local business continues to be managed by the General Legislature. We, therefore, express our deep regret that elective institutions for the management of local fiscal offices, were not created by the Union Act. Much of the time of the Upper Canada Parliament has been occupied in mere parish business; and the device of placing the financial affairs of districts

in the hands of justices of the peace was a most awkward expedient, only tolerable in the infancy of society in the Province. Even if these functionaries were the best persons to manage the local affairs, their powers were too limited; and if they were increased, we do not think a body of men appointed for the preservation of the peace by the Crown, would be found to take upon themselves the responsibility required. Moreover, taxation without representation would not be endured as a system; and without local taxation Parliament would not be relieved from the burden of local business. Let the money affairs of the several districts be managed by a small representative body, with a limited power of levying rates for local improvements, and if the roads remain bad and the country unimproved, we shall no longer hear the fact quoted as a reason for discontent against the Government. The disgrace will rest where it ought to rest, and the remedy will be in the hands of those most interested. Members will no longer be returned to the General Legislature on the principle of obtaining all they can for their own counties, or feel themselves under the necessity of advocating unfair distributions of public funds, for the sake of pleasing their constituents. The General Legislature will take a more elevated stand, and be occupied about its proper business of legislation; and the very rivalry created by the popular power in each division to improve it, as compared with others, will have an instantaneous effect in improving the face of the whole country. We are far from being in favour of conferring magisterial power upon these municipal bodies; for the peace of each division of the country, and the due administration of the laws within it, are much too important to the rest of the country to permit of the removal from Government of magisterial responsibility; but as to the fiscal affairs of each district, and the superintendence of local improvements, we repeat that they cannot be in safer hands than those of the people themselves, by their representatives immediately elected for the purpose.

We cannot close this article without noticing some points of objection to the Union Act, which we have heard and seen urged against it in this Province by two very opposite parties. The first is, we think, very conscientiously brought forward by reformers, who complain of the settlement of the civil list as depriving the representatives of the people of control