

The earl inclined much for a union of all the British provinces of North America; but such a union would necessitate a system of centralisation repugnant to the spirit of the New World populations.

Besides, to give satisfaction to each colony, it would be needful to continue the provincial assemblies, but with municipal powers only; or, still better, assemblies of districts or of the smaller *arrondissements*. He would recommend, without hesitation, the legislative union of all the provinces, should difficulties arise among those of the eastern regions of British America; or even time had allowed the people of the latter to come into such a project before the conjunction of the two Canadas were effected. But if agitations arose among them in the sequel, their populations might be merged in the Canadian masses, among whom they would become a subordinate minority. Meanwhile, his lordship recommended that our two provinces should be joined together, under one government, giving to Lower and Upper Canada respectively an equal number of representatives in assembly. He proposed that the crown should give up all its revenues, except those derived from land-sales, in exchange for a proper civil list; that all civil officers should be made responsible to the legislature, the governor and his secretary always excepted; that the independence of the judges should be recognised; and, further, that the heads of ministerial departments should be bound to govern in accordance with the wishes of majorities in the two chambers.

Such is the plan of provincial sway which Lord Durham fixed upon, and which he submitted to the home government and legislature, as the best of all those that had suggested themselves or been proposed to him, for re-establishing order, harmony, and peace among us. There were persons (of influence at head-quarters) who wished to ostracise, in mass, the French-Canadians; and deprive them, as being of alien race, of the representative and electoral franchise altogether. Others proposed a legislative union of the two Canadas, or indeed, of all the provinces, with a conjoint legislature for the whole of British America; therein reducing the French-Canadian members to a merely nominal number. Others, again, suggested a federal union. Lord Durham, upon his arrival at Quebec, inclined much to the latter project; and, in view of effecting it, he entered into conferences with the deputations from the outer provinces, along with the public bodies and leading men of the Canadas, whom he called around him at Quebec, on the feasibility of a measure which would embrace all the colonies. He wished at first to conciliate the French-Canadians, who (through his means) would have had the