

NOTE N.

It is unfortunate for the best interests of Canada, that there is such a general apathy, and consequently want of information, in regard to the conduct of the government, and the character of parties, among the great mass of our population. We have enough, God knows, of party spirit—enough of heat, intemperance, animosity—but where shall we find clear, consistent, enlightened or disinterested views—and how rarely do we meet, in a community far from being unintelligent, *with even individuals*, who have taken any pains to form wise, sober, and impartial judgments, with respect to the great questions in which we are all so deeply interested? The whole fortunes of the country, have been hitherto consigned to the care and keeping of a few official men—composing at once, the Legislative and Executive Councils, or bearing chief sway in them—while the public attention and interest, have only been called forth on rare occasions—when some present interest or prejudice happened to be touched. It is easy to understand, in this state of the public mind, how little sensation may be produced by measures of government, which deeply involve the most vital interests of the Colony, where they do not immediately touch the grosser and more palpable interests of the mass. The disposal of such an immense property as that of the Reserved Lands, is a question of vital interest, and fraught with more important consequences than most of those which are now most keenly agitated amongst us. (See Note E) What trifles do all our temporary expenditures and appropriations appear, when we compare them with the permanent disposal of such a vast property—vesting an equally vast power and influence, for good or for evil, in those who shall be endowed therewith? And yet, were it not for the selfish interests immediately involved in the settlement of this great question, we believe that it would scarcely excite any general sensation! Did the Laity of Canada see, or feel, as they ought, the effects which this appropriation will have upon the administration of the government, the independent power which it will vest in the Clergy, its tendency to create jealousies and divisions among the different sects, and to injure the interests of *Learning and Education*, by giving an undue preponderance to one or a few sects, in the patronage and administration of *their* institutions—they would not look with such tameness, as they have done, on past or present proceedings, affecting such mighty and essential interests. We tell the Agricultural and Mercantile bodies, that their most precious interests, are in direct opposition to every exclusive, and illiberal measure, to all partial and factious legislation. This question touches the very spring and foundation of our prosperity—and if it is mismanaged, it will paralyze our vital powers—and wither or enervate the whole social and political frame. It will never be well with these Colonies—there will be no vigorous action of government—until the people shall awake from their lethargy, and exercise a just countrol over the rulers, *by the influence of a free, manly, enlightened public opinion.*

FINIS.

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