

## OUR TABLE.

THE UNION.

SINCE the publication of the February number of the *Garland*, events of vast importance to the future prosperity of Canada have taken place. Since then, the long talked of Union between the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, has been consummated, and the first steps taken for the return of the people of the former to that state of political freedom unhappily disturbed by the disastrous occurrences of the years 1837 and 1838.

The tenth of February will form a new epoch in our Colonial History, whether for good or ill depends upon the spirit and temper of the people affected by the important change. That it may be the beginning of a more prosperous and peaceful state, we cannot imagine that any one is so destitute of patriotism as not to desire. That many, from motives of purest patriotism, have opposed it, no one with any share of that liberality and candour becoming in all, will deny. But there now exists no motive for further opposition. The power to reverse the *fiat* is not with us. Until time has shewn it to be unproductive of good, the power which decreed it cannot, nor will not again interfere. Let then the energies of all who love their country be bent to the one honourable purpose, to render it a blessing to the people for whose benefit alone it has been intended, by the beneficent and liberal Government of the great empire to which we proudly turn as the fostering parent of our own young but vigorous country.

Though somewhat alien to the subjects of which it is our duty to treat, we have been induced to touch upon this event, as one of too much importance to pass unrecorded in our pages, and as we do not approach it to discuss its merits, we do not fear that any of our readers will deem us at all intrusive. Equally with them we are interested in the result; like them, what is good for Canada cannot work harm for us—what is prejudicial to her interests must to us and to all be proportionately detrimental. It is then the interest, as it is the duty, and as it should be the pleasure, of every individual to contribute his assistance to render the operation of our new system of Constitutional Government as effective as possible for good.

Canada has for years suffered the evil consequences of opposing hostile parties, neither of which has been wholly blameless, as in all quarrels neither party can claim total exemption from reproach; but the extreme length to which, in pursuit of its object, one powerful body carried its hostility, led to results so terribly disastrous that all minor or more unimportant shades of difference forgotten, the opponents of the wild theorists were bound together in one impregnable phalanx. With a people so divided—with interests, feelings, every thing so diametrically opposite, it was of course impossible to govern the people by representatives chosen by themselves; the very attempt to elect them would only have been the means of rendering yet more bitter the already too fierce hostility of the rival parties. Such an attempt was wisely shunned.

Now, however, after two years of almost profound repose, when the rancour of political strife is scarcely remembered with other feelings than those of disapprobation and regret, when men have had time to permit the unnatural passions then roused into brief existence, to sink into oblivion, the period has arrived at which may justly be conceded the comparative self-Government without which it is impossible that men inheriting the opinions and blood of Britain can happily exist, and which are equally necessary to the well-being of our brethren of a different origin, the present generation of whom have been equally habituated to consider them necessary to their prosperous existence.

So circumstanced, it became the duty of the British Government to give back into the hands of the Colonists those privileges which had been in kindness withdrawn. The duty has been cheerfully performed. It will not form part of our future history that the trust has been unwisely given, or improperly and dangerously used.

Henceforward, let the past be but remembered as a moral lesson for our future guidance. Let the hatchet be indeed buried, and the country suffered to advance into that position for which it has been evidently designed by God and Nature, whose blessings have been showered upon it throughout its vast extent with a bountiful and unsparing hand.