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why and little indulgence from a legislature composed as the majority of any federative legislature would be, of colonists of *British* extraction. That the nationality of the *French* Canadians should be rendered systematic and permanent, is neither to be hoped nor expected; but it is highly desirable that, if it is to dwindle away, it should be silently and slowly absorbed, and not violated by any sudden and unhallowed interference of contemptuous brethren of a different race and of different habits. Of all his Majesty's subjects the Canadians, who are sincerely attached to the laws and the religion of their forefathers, are bound by interest to be the most loyal and most faithful. Nor are they bound more strongly by interest than by gratitude—having been delivered by the *British* arms from intolerable thralldom, and raised to the rank, for a high rank it is, of a *British* colony. How far have the colonies of *Britain* outstript in commercial and political prosperity those of any other nation. The second state in the world is a confederation of *British* colonies; and it is a proud boast for England that, while the far older colonies of Spain and Portugal were pining in unhealthy infancy, the American plantations had been opened and hardened into mature and vigorous manhood. Nor are the Australasian colonies and Upper Canada less honorable to the national character; and if Lower Canada has not drunk of the same full tide of prosperity, she has to blame her jealous and systematic exclusion of *British* skill, capital and enterprise. But yet in spite of herself has she prospered, having increased more rapidly in population and commerce than the neighbouring republic.

Such being the advantages of the subsisting connexion both to the mother country and to the colony, it is a matter of vital importance that the continuance of that connexion should form the main object of imperial legislation in regard to Lower Canada. Any proposition, however specious and beautiful, that may tend to dis-

solve or weaken that connexion, should be unhesitatingly rejected. It cannot, Sir, be necessary to apprise one who has read the absurd and almost rebellious resolutions of the assembly, that the concession of the demands of that body would lead to the dismemberment of the empire. The framers, it is true, threaten a revolt in case of a rejection of their unreasonable and unconstitutional demands; but this, as I have attempted to shew, is a ridiculous bravado, and the real danger arises not from rejection but from concession.

The substitution of an elective council, of which the majority would be identical in principle and conduct with the majority of the assembly, must necessarily concentrate a double portion of legislative power in the hands of the present dominant party and leave the *British* population defenceless. Of this I shall hereafter speak more fully; and I now enter on a brief review of the more recent proceedings of the assembly with the view of considering whether they have been such as to make it a safe depository of a double share of legislative authority.

This body was constituted by act of the *British* Parliament, and by that act alone must its powers and privileges be regulated and defined. On this point, Sir, you have, in your late admirable despatches, made very dangerous concessions by seeming to acknowledge an analogy and equality between the privileges of the Assembly and those of the House of Commons. Now the Assembly by the constitutional act is invested simply with legislative powers, precisely similar to those of the co-ordinate branches and can therefore claim such privileges only as are essential to the discharge of its legislative functions, privileges which can in no case exceed those with which the legislative council performs perfectly similar duties. What is found sufficient for the one body, must be sufficient for the other. You will forgive me, Sir, if I enter somewhat fully into this subject, as I, in common with every intelligent man in the