

excluding from the House of Assembly all who do not fall into their views, (which views, right or wrong, it is not the present object of your Petitioners to discuss;) and the effect has been that of the vast number of emigrants who of late years have arrived from Great Britain and Ireland, probably not one twentieth part have remained within its limits, the rest have sought protection under English institutions, by settling in Upper Canada or in the United States.

No. 18.  
Petition of Merchants and others connected with the Canadas, dated 17th May 1828.

That by a union of the two provinces every British inhabitant therein would be represented were some measure at the same time to be adopted to enable the townships to retain members for themselves, and the claims of these inhabitants of British origin are strongly built upon justice, that your Petitioners cannot doubt but your Honourable House would see fit to provide for the unrepresented state of these valuable and fertile portions of the province.

That the Legislature of the Lower Province has for a long time past been so much agitated by dissensions, and their deliberations so much engrossed thereby, that trade, agriculture, education and other matters of general interest have been neglected; whereas, under an enlightened and efficient Legislature, undistracted by partial views and interests, your Petitioners confidently anticipate the rapid advancement of these, together with the improvement of the navigation and internal means of communication, the establishment of an Insolvent Debtors Act, of offices for the registry of lands and mortgages, and other objects so necessary for security in commercial transactions.

That while your Petitioners thus point out to your Honourable House the necessity of, and advantages which, in their humble opinion, would flow from a union, they are far from wishing such a measure on any other than equitable principles, without innovation in the laws or religion, or without doing violence to the feelings of any party more than may be found necessary to conduce to the general good.

May your Honourable House therefore be pleased to take these premises into your consideration; and your Petitioners rely with full confidence on your wisdom for taking such measures thereupon as will promote the best interests of these provinces and long preserve them as valuable dependencies of the Crown of Great Britain.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

17th May 1828.