

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

*Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VIII.]

MIRAMICHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1849.

[NUMBER 1.]

## CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

From the St. John Courier.

An address to the people of Canada, signed by 324 persons of respectability, and of all origins, was issued at Montreal on the 10th inst. The following are selected from among the names:—John Torrance, Jacob Dewitt, M. P. P., J. Redpath, John Molson, David Torrance, John Rose, Q. C., D. Kinnear, E. Goff Penny, S. Jones Lynam, Charles Chalmers, Robert Chalmers, F. G. Johnson, Q. C., Dr. McCulloch, William Workman, D. L. Macpherson, Thos. B. Anderson, David Kinnear, and John Glass. We subjoin a copy of the document:—

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

The number and magnitude of the evils that afflict our country and the universal and increasing depression of its material interests, call upon all persons animated by a sincere desire for its welfare, to combine for the purposes of inquiry and preparation, with a view to the adoption of such remedies as a mature and dispassionate investigation may suggest.

Belonging to all parties, origins and creeds, but yet agreed upon the advantage of co-operation for the performance of a common duty to ourselves and our country, growing out of a common necessity, we have consented, in view of a brighter and happier future, to merge in oblivion all past differences, of whatever character, or attributable to whatever source. In appealing to our Fellow Colonies to unite with us in this, our most needful duty, we solemnly conjure them, as they desire a successful issue, and the welfare of their country, to enter upon the task, at this momentous crisis, in the same fraternal spirit.

The reversal of the ancient policy of Great Britain, whereby she withdrew from the Colonies their wonted protection in her markets, has produced the most disastrous effects upon Canada. In surveying the actual condition of the country, what but ruin or rapid decay meets the eye? Our Provincial Government and Civic Corporations embarrassed; our Banking and other securities greatly depreciated; our Mercantile and Agricultural interest alike unprosperous; real estate scarcely saleable upon any terms; our unrivalled rivers, lakes and canals, almost unused; while commerce abandons our shores, the circulating capital amassed under a more favorable system is dissipated, with none from any quarter to replace it! Thus, without available capital, unable to effect a loan with Foreign States or with the Mother Country, although offering security greatly superior to that which readily obtains money both from the United States and Great Britain, when other than Colonists are the applicants. Crippled, therefore, and checked in the full career of private and public enterprise, this possession of the British Crown—our country—stands before the world in humiliating contrast with its immediate neighbours, exhibiting every symptom of a nation fast sinking into decay.

With superabundant water power and cheap labor, especially in Lower Canada, we have yet no domestic manufactures; nor can the most sanguine, unless under altered circumstances, anticipate the home growth, or advent from foreign parts, of either capital or enterprise to embark in this great source of national wealth. Our institutions, unhappily, have not that impress of permanence which can alone impart security, and inspire confidence, and the Canadian market is too limited to tempt the foreign capitalist.

While the adjoining States are covered with a network of thriving railways, Canada possesses but three lines, which together, scarcely exceeds 50 miles in length and the stock in two of which is held at a depreciation of from 50 to 80 per cent.—a fatal symptom of the torpor overspreading the land.

Our present form of Provincial Government is cumbersome, and so expensive as to be ill suited to the country, and the necessary reference it demands to a distant Government, imperfectly acquainted with

Canadian affairs, and somewhat indifferent to our interests, is anomalous and irksome. Yet, in the event of a rupture between two of the most powerful nations of the world, Canada would become the battle-field and the sufferer, however little her interests might be involved in the cause of quarrel, or the issue of the contest.

The bitter animosities of political parties and factions in Canada, often leading to violence, and upon one occasion to civil war, seem not to have abated with time; nor is there, at the present moment, any prospect of diminution or accommodation. The aspect of parties becomes daily more threatening toward each other, and under our existing institutions and relations, little hope is discernible of a peaceful and prosperous administration of our affairs, but difficulties will, to all appearance, accumulate until Government becomes impracticable. In this view of our position, any course that may promise to efface existing party distinctions, and place entirely new issues before the people, must be fraught with undeniable advantages.

Among the Statesmen of the Mother Country—among the sagacious observers of the neighboring Republic—in Canada—and all British North America—among all classes, there is a strong pervading conviction that a political revolution in this country is at hand. Such forebodings cannot readily be dispelled, and they have, moreover, a tendency to realize the events to which they point. In the meanwhile, serious injury results to Canada from the effect of this anticipation upon the more desirable class of settlers, who naturally prefer a country under fixed and permanent forms of Government, to one in a state of transition.

Having thus adverted to some of the causes of our present evils, we could consider how far the remedies ordinarily proposed possess sound and rational inducements to justify their adoption:—

I. "The revival of protection in the markets of the United Kingdom."

This, if attainable in a sufficient degree and guaranteed for a long period of years, would ameliorate the condition of many of our chief interests, but the policy of the Empire forbids the anticipation. Beside, it would be but a partial remedy.—The millions of the Mother Country demand cheap food; and a second change from Protection to Free Trade would complete that ruin which the first has done much to achieve.

II. "The protection of Home Manufactures."

Although this might encourage the growth of a manufacturing interest in Canada, yet, without access to the United States market, there would not be a sufficient expansion of that interest, from the want of consumers, to work any result that could be admitted as a "remedy" for the numerous evils of which we complain.

III. "A Federal Union of the British American Provinces."

The advantages claimed for that arrangement are free trade between the different Provinces, and a diminished Governmental expenditure. The attainment of the latter object would be problematical, and benefits anticipated from the former might be secured by legislation under our existing system. The markets of the sister Provinces would not benefit our trade in timber, for they have a surplus of that article in their own forests; and their demand for agricultural products would be too limited to absorb our means of supply.—Nor could Canada expect any encouragement to her manufacturing industry from those quarters. A Federal Union, therefore, would be no remedy.

IV. "The independence of the British North American Colonies as a Federal Republic."

The consolidation of its new institutions from elements hitherto so discordant—the formation of treaties with foreign powers—the acquirement of a name and character among the nations—would, we fear, prove an overmatch for the strength of the new Republic. And having regard to the powerful confederacy of

States conterminous with itself, the needful military defences would be too costly to render independence a boon, while it would not, any more than a Federal Union, remove these obstacles which retard our material prosperity.

V. "Reciprocal Free Trade with the United States, as respects the products of the farm, the forest and the mine."

If obtained, this would yield but an instalment of the many advantages which might be otherwise secured. The free interchange of such products would not introduce manufactures to our country. It would not give us the North American Continent for our market. It would neither so amend our institutions as to confer stability nor insure confidence in their permanence; nor would it allay the violence of parties, or in the slightest degree, remedy many of our prominent evils.

VI. Of all the remedies that have been suggested for the acknowledged and insufferable ills with which our country is afflicted there remains but one to be considered. It propounds a sweeping and important change in our political and social condition, involving considerations that demand our most serious examination. This remedy consists in a "Friendly and Peaceful Separation from British Connection, and a Union, upon equitable terms, with the great North American Confederacy of Sovereign States."

We would premise that toward Great Britain we entertain none other than sentiments of kindness and respect. Without her consent we consider separation as neither practicable nor desirable. But the Colonial policy of the Parent State, the avowals of her leading statesmen, the public sentiments of the Empire, present unmistakable and significant indications of the appreciation of Colonial Connection. That it is the resolve of England to invest us with the attributes, and compel us to assume the burdens of independence is no longer problematical. The threatened withdrawal of her troops from other colonies—the continuance of her military protection to ourselves only on the condition that we shall defray the attendant expenditure, betoken her intentions toward our country, against which it is weakness in us not to provide. An overruling conviction, then, of its necessity, and a high sense of duty we owe to our country, a duty we can neither disregard nor postpone, impels us to entertain the idea of separation; and whatever negotiations may eventuate with Great Britain, a grateful liberality on the part of Canada should mark every proceeding.

The proposed union would render Canada a field for American capital, into which it would enter as freely for the prosecution of public works and private enterprises as into any of the present State. It would equalize the value of real estate upon both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada, while by giving stability to our institutions, and introducing prosperity, it would raise our public, corporate and private credit. It would increase our credit both with the United States and foreign countries, and not necessarily diminish, to any great extent, our intercourse with Great Britain, into which our produce would, for the most part, enter on the same terms as at present. It would render our rivers and canals the highways for the immigration to, and exports from the West, to the incalculable benefit of our country. It would also introduce manufactures into Canada as rapidly as they have been introduced into the Northern States; and to Lower Canada, especially, where water privileges and labor are abundant and cheap, it would attract manufacturing capital, enhancing the value of property and agricultural produce and giving remunerative employment to what is at present a comparatively non-productive population. Nor would the United States merely furnish the capital for our manufactures. They would also supply for them the most extensive market in the world, without the intervention of a Custom House Officer.—Railways would forthwith be constructed by American capital as feeders of all the

great lines now approaching our frontiers; and railway enterprise in general would doubtless be as active and prosperous among us as among our neighbors. The value of our agricultural produce would be raised at once to a par with that of the United States, while agricultural implements and many of the necessaries of life, such as tea, coffee and sugar, would be greatly reduced in price.

The value of timber would also be greatly enhanced by free access to the American market, where it bears a high price, but it is subject to an onerous duty. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that our shipholders, as well as Quebec as on the Great Lakes, would find an unlimited market in all ports of the American Continent. It cannot be doubted that the shipping trade of the United States must greatly increase. It is equally manifest that with them, the principal material in the construction of ships is rapidly diminishing, while we possess vast territories covered with timber of excellent quality, which would be equally available, as it now is, since under the Free Trade system our vessels would sell as well in England after Annexation as before.

The simple and economical State Government, in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguishing feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbersome and expensive.

In place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbor, there would be peace and amity between this country and the United States. Disagreements between the United States and her chief if not only rival among nations, would not make the soil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their disputes, as under our existing relations must necessarily be the case.—That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a fore-doomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

But other advantages than those having a bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contests between races and parties, allay and obiterate those irritations and conflicts of rancor and recrimination which have hitherto disfigured our social fabric. Already in anticipation has its harmonious influence been felt—the harbinger, may it be hoped, of a lasting oblivion of dissensions among all classes, creeds and parties in the country. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth.—We have now no voice in the affairs of the Empire, nor do we share in its honors or emoluments. England is our parent State, with whom we have no equality, but towards whom we stand in the simple relation of obedience. But as citizens of the United States, the public service of the nation would be open to us—a field for high and honorable distinction, on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of perfect equality.

Nor would the amicable separation of Canada from Great Britain be fraught with advantages to us alone. The relief to the Parent State from the large expenditure now incurred in the military occupation of the country—the removal of the many causes of collision with the United States, which result from the contiguity of mutual territories so extensive—the benefit of the larger market which the increasing prosperity of Canada would create, are considerations which, in the minds of many of her ablest statesmen, render our incorporation with the United States a desirable consummation.

To the United States also the annexation of Canada presents many important inducements. The withdrawal from their borders of so powerful a nation, by whom in time of war the immense and growing commerce of the Lakes would be jeopardised—the ability to dispen-