

onerous kind, I will state one case out of many, which have recently been communicated to me—

The taxes of N. M. of Saint Stephen, New Brunswick, amounted in 1836, in the aggregate to \$42. J. D. of Calais, Maine, the same year was assessed over \$600! for his share of local taxation. The value of the real and personal property owned by these two persons, did not vary \$1,000, and yet over \$558 were actually paid by the republican, for which he enjoyed in return, the glorious privileges of being a republican. It is said that even gold may be purchased too dearly, and he must rate a *questionable* political and municipal change far more highly than it is generally estimated, who would willingly pay so dearly for his whistle.

THE IMPRACTICABILITY OF ANNEXATION.—Some old dame or other, whose patronymic I have entirely forgotten, but whose culinary celebrity is held in high repute, in her recipe for cooking a hare, commences her direction with "first catch your hare." I have seen the picture of a Monkey holding out his tail very invitingly, but very provokingly, a little beyond the reach of a chained Mastiff, whilst the words "don't you wish you may get it," apparently emanate from the lips of mischievous Jacko. In the first place it always takes two to make ordinary bargains, and I am inclined to the belief, that this *extraordinary* bargain of Annexation, will form no exception to the general rule. Whether the Yankees will have us, or not, is question 1. Whether, *as a body*, the Colonists are willing to go, shall form quere 2. The first proposition is easily disposed of. The most respectable and best informed American newspapers plainly intimate the opinion, that we are not wanted. They suspect our motives, doubt our honesty, and utterly deny that love of republicanism has anything to do with the question. The American government they say, will never go to war with Great Britain to secure her Colonies, and if they cannot be obtained without a rupture between two great and friendly powers, whose interest it is to live in amity, of course there is an end to the whole affair.

But admitting that *impossibilities* may exist, altho' I believe that the days for miracles were terminated some eighteen centuries now past. Admitting that Jonathan becomes so very amorous as to strive to win, and that Great Britain forgets the love she bore to the infant of her bosom, and the fondled and favoured daughter of after years, to protect whom her armies were embarked, and her naval power was summoned to attend and minister at the call of her helpless offspring, far from the land of her fathers, but precious in the sympathy and treasured in the hearts of her trans-atlantic kindred. Considering the existence of this unnatural state of things, at the contemplation of which every truly British heart would recoil with horror. Would the Colonist even then shake off his allegiance willingly, and forget—as an act of volition—all the endearing and ennobling associations, in near connexion with which that *hallowed* allegiance is so intimately blended! I trow not. Let the people of Canada, who are by far the most formidable party in the arrangement, speak for themselves. At a public dinner recently given at Brantford, a flourishing town in the very centre of Upper Canada, on the occasion of the Honorable Malcolm Cameron visiting that section of the country, with Mr. Cauceon, a gentleman of French origin, and representative of the County of Montmorenci, below Quebec; on the subject of annexation Mr. Cameron observed amidst the plaudits of the company:—

"He had in the early part of the day fully explained his views of annexation, and the arguments and figures against it. But he omitted to say what he really felt, and while deprecating annexation as a great and humiliating evil, he had no unkind or illiberal feeling to the Americans.—Quite the contrary—he admired their talents and he desired to imitate their enterprise; and the home government would be anxious to maintain the most friendly relations, and grant to them every reciprocity in trade, commerce, and navigation. And surely they could not be afraid of us, and he (Mr. Cameron,) believed we had nothing to fear. We were in a position to be the most prosperous country on this continent, and why should we be willing to sink from a country into an insignificant state? Can it be that there is a Canadian, an Anglo Canadian, or an American Canadian of so mean a soul, with a spirit so dead to patriotism, that he would be willing to forego the honor of his country—the glory of being a Canadian—for the position of a mere state, with the sobriquet of 'Canucks,' as we hear of Pukes and Hoosiers, Wolverines and Corncrackers? No, he (Mr. Cameron) was a Canadian, proud of the name, and he hoped to see his native land prospering side by side with the United States, and having nothing either to covet or envy."

On the same occasion, Mr Morrison, one of the Representatives of the West Riding of York, gave utterance to the following:—

"One word about annexation. The Montreal press may publish their low and vile abuse of our Governor General, may disseminate their malignant representations, may run rampant into treason—the League will soon find that Upper Canada scouts annexation. (Cheers.) We know that our government is the government of the people, and the freest upon earth—we love our Queen, and glory in our connection with England. (Cheers.) We understand our rights, we understand the Montreal slanderers; we have nothing to gain by throwing off our allegiance. But it appears tory loyalty will do it; because they choose to say they were called rebels they must now be rebels indeed. (Cheers.) The man who is so lost to all British feeling as to pull down the British Ensign, and run up the stripes and stars, is a rank rebel, and wherever he is met, let him be branded as such. (Cheers.)"

If necessary, I could quote the speeches of ten or twelve other Canadians, who on public occasions have promulgated the same sentiments, highly to the gratification of their hearers, consisting of a class of men who form the bone and sinew and stamina of their country, and who speak the true sentiments of the Canadian people.

I shall now in furtherance of my object, transcribe a few quotations from the Newspapers of Canada, which are distinguished for their influence and respectability. First in order is "The Church," the organ of the Bishop of Toronto and his Clergy, and a paper, which it is well understood, speaks the sentiments of the "old compact party," the members of which are so frequently charged with a desire for annexation. On this subject thus nobly proclaims "The Church":—

"This monstrous chimera of annexation, we trust, will be abandoned at once and for ever; by western Canada it will not be entertained for a single instant. Having a pretty extensive acquaintance with public feeling, we can assure the "Herald" that so far as our position as a component part of the British Empire is concerned,

"————— we seek no change,  
And least of all such change as he would give us."

The "Toronto Patriot," another very influential conservative journal, denounces the scheme of the annexationist party, as "sheer folly,"—whilst the "Hamilton Spectator," the special organ of Sir Allan MacNab, declaims as follows:—

"We can tell the people of Montreal, who appear to head the movement, that the Upper Canadians will not follow wherever they choose to lead. They must bide their time, and await our co-operation ere they presume to dictate. We are at least equally interested with themselves, and there are men in this section of the Province quite as capable of deciding as to the proper course of action, as certain hot-headed persons in the metropolis. As to the avowed annexation movement in Montreal, we look upon it as preposterous. The design of the newspaper which they purpose establishing, and the parties connected with it, may all be summed up in one word—humbug! Sidney Bellingham—the toady of Lord Sydenham, the bosom friend of the New York repealers—lead a great political movement! Bah! We have no patience with such nonsense. With respect to the "Montreal Herald," which appears to be quite rabid in favour of annexation, it cannot be said to be an organ of the conservative party. At all events a vast majority of the party have become thoroughly disgusted with its trimming, and alternate support and opposition."

The "Montreal Transcript," also conservative, is equally decided. It says:—

"But seriously, what are we to think of the cool impudence of the whole affair: of the prospectus and its authors? We have heard a good deal about 'annexation' lately, and thought, and still think, we perfectly understand it. That it is the serious thought or wish of any considerable number of persons in the country we thoroughly deny. There is a wish for political tranquillity—a wish for more peaceable times—a wish for 'better times'—but no wish for annexation. In the cities, we confess, there are a few landowners who have persuaded themselves that a change might bring them some good; and a still smaller number of chicken-hearted merchants and traders who fancy, that by calling themselves Yankees, they would grow rich without any effort of their own: but these men are not the people, nor a tithe of the people, and were the political board divided to-morrow, they would find themselves in a miserable minority. Is it not then a little too much, that on the strength of such a party, Mr. S. Bellingham and his committee and convention should coolly vote us all Yankees, and openly avow their intention to obtain what they call 'peaceable annexation?' But perhaps we are committing an error; perhaps after all it is better that Mr. Bellingham and his friends should lead off in this modest game of 'annexation.' After they have moved in it, we do not think it likely any man of real substance (if any such men could be found on that side) will venture to meddle with it at all.—But the people of Canada will never be dragooned into annexation, and they will reject with scorn any attempt made to weaken their allegiance by parties bribed and paid from the States. Whenever the question of annexation arises (if it ever does arise) it will be a purely Canadian one. We will allow no Yankee interference here, where our best interests are concerned, and we should be fools if we did. But the whole thing is premature, and so those who think to make capital out of it will soon find to their cost."

Without pronouncing any opinion on the subject of establishing Orange lodges in these colonies, as this is a matter entirely foreign to the question before me, I have merely to state that the number of Orangemen in Canada is estimated at over 70,000, and it is reported that their Grand Master has recently addressed a circular to them, "warning his brethren against having any thing to do with the annexation movement, and informing them that all members of lodges joining in the disloyal manifestation, will be expelled from the society."

I have still, if needful, an immense amount of similar testimony, to establish the fact, that the Canadian people are far, very far, from being in favor of annexation.

I must now defer the consideration of this subject until the publication of your ensuing number.

PETER STUBS.

St. John, September 24, 1849.