

more destitute of all that can invigorate and elevate a people than that which is exhibited by the descendants of the French in Lower Canada, owing to their retaining their peculiar language and manners. They are a people with no history and no literature. The literature of England is written in a language which is not theirs, and the only literature which their language renders familiar to them is that of a nation from which they have been separated by eighty years of a foreign rule, and still more by those changes which the revolution and its consequences have wrought in the whole political, moral and social state of France.

Well, Mr. SPEAKER, Sir EDMUND HEAD, when he called us an inferior race, without our French-Canadian Ministers protesting in any way against this gross and foolish insult—drew his inspiration from the report from which I have just cited an extract, and which, from its first to its last page, breathes the most bitter hatred of all that bears the French name or stamp. A little further on Lord DURHAM continues as follows :—

In these circumstances I should be indeed surprised if the more reflecting part of the French-Canadians entertained at present any hope of continuing to preserve their nationality.

Probably, Mr. SPEAKER, Lord DURHAM was desirous of alluding to the members of the present Administration who to-day evince a disposition to sacrifice their nationality for the honors and titles which Lord DURHAM counselled the Imperial Government to bestow on those of our reflecting French-Canadians who would not refuse to take the gilded bait which Great Britain might dangle before their eyes. I continue my citations :—

Lower Canada must be governed now, as it must be hereafter, by an English population ; and thus the policy which the necessities of the moment force upon us, is in accordance with that suggested by a comprehensive view of the future and permanent improvement of the province.

A little further on Lord DURHAM proceeds as follows :—

It is proposed either to place the legislative authority in a governor, with a council formed of the heads of the British party, or to contrive some scheme of representation by which a minority, with the forms of representation, is to deprive a majority of all voice in the management of its own affairs.

The plan of Confederation now submitted for our adoption is exactly that dreamt of by Lord DURHAM. Our Ministers have

copied it, so to speak, word for word. Lord DURHAM indicates all its essential points ; and if I cite his report, it is with the view of proving that the real author of the Confederation, which it is sought to impose upon us, is, in fact, Lord DURHAM himself. (Hear, hear.) I quote again from his report :—

The only power that can be effectual at once in coercing the present disaffection and hereafter obliterating the nationality of the French-Canadians, is that of the numerical majority of a loyal and English population ; and the only stable government will be one more popular than any that has hitherto existed in the North American colonies. The influence of perfectly equal and popular institutions in effacing distinctions of race without disorder or oppression, and with little more than the ordinary animosities of party in a free country, is memorably exemplified in the history of the State of Louisiana, the laws and population of which were French at the time of its cession to the American union. And the eminent success of the policy adopted with regard to that state points out to us the means by which a similar result can be effected in Lower Canada.

Lord DURHAM was perfectly correct in suggesting the adoption of this policy. He did not wish to put his foot on our necks, but he advised that we should be made to disappear little by little under English influence, and when we should be weak enough to be no longer dangerous, then that we should have the *coup de grâce*. As in Louisiana, our nationality was to disappear under the influence of foreign elements.

Mr. SCOBLE—Will the hon. gentleman permit me to observe to him, that it is only justice to the memory of that great statesman to say, that he wrote his report having only in view a legislative union, and that circumstances have changed since that day ? Now we are only discussing a Confederation, and consequently Lord DURHAM's views do not apply to it.

HON. MR. LAFRAMBOISE—I think that the plan conceived by Lord DURHAM was that of a legislative union and a Confederation of all the British North American Provinces. We are about to begin with Confederation, but we shall finish with a legislative union. Confederation, as has been well observed by that eminent statesman, is the first step to a legislative union. "Act with prudence," he says in his famous report to the British Government ; "we must not crush the French race too suddenly