

# CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN.

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## Christian Guardian.

DEVOTED TO RELIGION, MORALITY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC ECONOMY, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

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### REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST E. CHURCH IN CANADA.

From 1st. Sept. 1829 to 1st. Sept. 1831.

It is with feelings of gratitude to God for the abundant blessings with which he has favoured the Methodist Missionary Society, during the two past years, that the Board present to the public their Sixth Report.

There is no subject that more engrosses the minds of Christians in Great Britain and America, and there is no benevolent institution which calls forth more united efforts for its support, than the cause of Christian Missions, and we think it would be difficult to find in either country, an enlightened Christian, who would assert, that this cause is undeserving of the support which it receives from its most devoted friends. Nothing can be more pleasing to a benevolent mind than a view of the vast sum of good which is effected through the instrumentality of the Methodist and other Missionary Societies of England, in sending the blessings of Christianity and civilization to many thousands dwelling in Asia, Africa, and the "Islands of the Seas." In this great and glorious enterprise, Missionary Societies of different names in the United States, are taking an active part, and although the operations of our Society, when compared to the labours of these powerful Associations are very limited indeed, yet we cannot but rejoice in the great honour the Lord has conferred upon us, in crowning the labours of the Society with success, in the conversion of several hundreds of the Aborigines of our Country, and in favouring with religious instruction and Christian ordinances, hundreds living in new and desolate settlements situated far in the interior of the Province.

Most of the tribes of Indians which have been christianized, are now located in villages and settlements, which have been principally prepared for them by the Colonial Government, in all of which places School Houses are erected, and Literary and Religious instruction, are regularly imparted through the instrumentality of Missionaries and Teachers, employed and supported by this Society.—But as a particular knowledge of these interesting Missions is desired by our Patrons and Friends, we proceed to give a more detailed account of them.

#### GRAPE ISLAND MISSION.

Continues (as usual) in a state of prosperity, the School is well attended and numbers between 40 and 50 Scholars, the most of whom are making very considerable proficiency in acquiring useful knowledge.—The following is an extract of a letter from the Teacher; dated Grape Island, August 20: "The number of Scholars in this School is 42, twenty six Boys and sixteen Girls, the different branches taught are, Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, and English Grammar; together with Geography, Astronomy, and Natural Philosophy. The last of these branches are principally taught on the infant plan." Of the Society, the committee have to state, that although there is a little decrease (owing to deaths and removals) in number, yet there is no abatement in the fervency of the piety of those who remain, but with very few exceptions they still continue "steadfast; unmovable;" and show by their lives they are "honest in a sacred cause." There have been several triumphant deaths, at this station during the two past years; among whom we would beg leave to mention, those of Johnson and John Pauls. Of the former, the Rev. W. Case, in a letter to Dr. Bangs, dated "Grape Island, July 16 1831," (and published in the Christian Advocate of August 20th,) says, "The night before his death I administered the Lord's Supper to Johnson, it was a season of much melting of hearts, and strength of faith, and all present were greatly blessed; Johnson was very happy, raising his emaciated arms abroad, he many times brought his hands together, exclaiming 'God opens the door of Heaven; I see the light of his glory; my soul is very happy; I am going to heaven where Jesus is!' May our last end be like this Christian Indian's, triumphing in the God of our salvation." With respect to John Pauls, Mr. Hurlbert, teacher of the school writes as follows: "John Pauls had been consumptive for some years, but was not confined to his bed until about two months before he died, from that time he appeared to be sensible of his approaching dissolution, and seemed to have no desire to live, but to depart and be with Christ, and when the fatal hour arrived, so great were his joys, and so strong his comforts that he appeared altogether insensible to his sufferings which at times apparently were very great, but he could sweetly say, 'Jesus makes my dying bed, as soft as downy pillows are,' until he breathed his soul out into the arms of his Redeemer, there to participate an everlasting repose." Brother Paul was

an exhorter and had been employed several times as Missionary among his brethren, principally in company with John Sunday to Penetanguishine and Mackinaw during the summer of 1830, when he was very useful. The number of members in society at this station is 108. Two hundred altogether are receiving Christian instruction.

#### RICE LAKE.

A part of the Indians belonging to this Mission, are situated on lands lying on the Mud Lake, where there is a school, taught by a teacher employed by the New England Company, it is composed of scholars principally from Rice Lake and Schugog Lake, the school of the latter of these places is now discontinued, in consequence of the Indians having removed to other stations; a part of them with their children, to the Narrows, at Lake Simcoe, and the rest to Mud Lake. Of the Rice Lake Station, the Missionary writes as follows: "This Mission is situated on the North shore of the Rice Lake, the tract of land occupied by the Indians, contains about 950 acres, the soil is of a light sandy nature. There are at the Rice Lake and Mud Lake, stations, about 260 adults and 100 children, between 70 and 80 of the latter are in the schools, whilst a number of the former can read the Scriptures; the children evince an anxiety to acquire knowledge, they read fluently in the Bible and English Reader, have made some progress in English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, and Natural History, and evince a state of improvement and promise usefulness in their Nation." An excellent school-house has been erected here, and fitted for the Pestalozzian system. Several of the most promising boys at this school have removed with their parents to Mud Lake, and now attend the school there.

#### LAKE SIMCOE.

The principal establishment of the Simcoe Indians, is now at the Cove, near the Narrows of the Lake, where a Village is laid out, and buildings are erecting by the Governor; one of which is a spacious building for Schools and Meetings. To this Station, Chief Snake's Tribe has removed, so that Snake's Island, in Lake Simcoe (where the Society had erected a house for Schools and Meetings, and another for the Mission family, and where twenty acres of land had been brought under cultivation,) is now abandoned. It is much to be regretted, that the Society had not been made acquainted with His Excellency's intentions, as it would have saved them much labour and several hundred dollars expense. The union of two bodies of the Indians, at this place, will however, render the Mission less expensive as a less number of Missionaries and Teachers will answer. At the Cove during the past year a Mission House has been erected, by the prudence and industry of the missionary with very little expense to the Society. There are 180 members in society at this station and 50 children are taught in the school.

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#### RIVER CRÉDIT.

This Mission, in point of importance and usefulness stands at the head of all the stations under the Society's superintendence, as this Tribe was the first that embraced Christianity, and by their means, especially through the instrumentality of Preachers and exhorters raised up amongst them, the Gospel with all its attending blessings has been sent to hundreds of their Brethren. There are at present 110 members in Society who are divided into seven classes, and there are fifty children in the school, some of whom are very pious, and promise great usefulness. The number of souls who are receiving instruction at this station is 220. The village which consists of about 30 houses, (including the Parsonage, Hospital, school and Meeting Houses, together with a large building 40 by 24 feet, and two stories high, for a workshop &c.) is neatly laid out, and pleasantly situated, on the Banks of the River. The Indians in their manner and habits are greatly improved so much so that the cleanliness and order of their houses &c. is not inferior to Whites, under similar circumstances. During the past year a sawmill was erected, the expense of which was defrayed out of the funds belonging to the Indians. This will be of great advantage to the Indians as there is abundance of Pine timber in the neighbourhood, and every facility for transporting the lumber, to York and other markets.

#### GRAND RIVER.

A very powerful revival commenced here about eight months ago, and is still going on though considerably abated, the fruit of this revival is the conversion of more than 60 souls, the principal part of whom joined society. There are at this station 500 souls who are receiving instruction from the Society's Missionaries and Teachers. 220 of these are actual communicants, and there are about 60 children in the three schools. There is a large Chapel and 2 school-houses, and the Society is about erecting a Parsonage house, a part of the money for the defraying the expenses of which has been raised by the benevolent exertions of Miss Barnes.

#### MUNCY TOWN.

At this station during the past year the Governor has laid out a village, and is now erecting dwellings for the Indians, as also a commodious house for schools and meetings. In this house the school is now taught, with respect to which the

teacher writes as follows: "The school numbers 25 children, 15 boys and 10 girls; 4 of the scholars can write, and read in the English Reader; 9 more are reading in the Testament." There are 560 in this station who are receiving religious instruction, 55 of whom are regular members of the Church. Of the Mission generally, the Missionary states "during the past season several have experienced Religion, 4 have removed, 2 have apostatized and 2 have died."

#### CONARD, AMHERSTBURGH.

This is a settlement of Wyandott Indians, situated on the Detroit river, about three miles above Amherstburgh, there are about forty belonging to the Methodist congregation eighteen of whom are members of society, they are under the pastoral care of the preacher on the Amherstburgh Circuit; those not under our care are principally Roman Catholics.

#### MOHAWKS, BAY QUINCY.

Considerable changes have been effected in this body, through the preaching of the Word. In the two years past the Society has been increased one half, so that it now numbers 73 members. 150 is the number receiving Christian instruction; there are 40 children belonging to the school; and during the past year a house 22 by 80 feet has been erected for Schools and Meetings.

#### SAH-GEENG.

This Mission was commenced during the past year, with respect to which, Mr. Case states in a letter published in the 88th No. of the Christian Guardian, and dated Belleville, June 28th, 1831: "The friends of Indian improvement will learn with pleasure that a school has lately been established among the Indian of Sah-Geeng river, on the South side of Lake Huron; it is now three years since Thomas McGee and John Thomas, native speakers, visited this Tribe, they penetrated the wilderness one hundred miles, found them in retired families, poor and wretched, subsisting principally on Fish. At first they looked on our native Missionaries with suspicion and treated them with indifference. At length the Chief became willing for a school. When Mr. Jones and his brethren traversed the South shore of the Lake, in the summer of 1829, they found them immersed in ignorance and superstition, yet they solicited a school for the instruction of their children. In this visit of Mr. Jones, some were awakened to a sense of their sinful state, and their need of a Saviour. From this time the work of Religion progressed, until about 40 adults have professed to experience a change of heart. During the religious awakening of this people, they were scholary for the 'word of life,' that most of the tribe have several times travelled through the wilderness to the white settlements, a hundred miles, to hear the Gospel. They visited the River Credit Mission, a distance of 150 miles, to hear the word and receive Christian Baptism. When they came out last winter for instruction, they obtained a promise, that we would soon send them a Missionary and School teacher. This Mission Mr. John Benham has undertaken, accompanied by a Native youth from Grape Island, who acts as Interpreter and assistant in the school. These brethren left the Island in March last, having been provided with windows, nails, &c. for their new house, and various tools for joiner work and farming business. After a journey of 330 miles (part of the way through a wilderness) they arrived at Sah-Geeng, their destined place, on the 19th April." Particular knowledge of the present state of the work at this place, will be had from an extract of a letter of Mr. Benham's, published in the same Guardian. Mr. B. says, "We arrived here the 19th of April. After consultation with the Indians, and all things being understood and mutually agreeable, we commenced clearing a garden, with their assistance we have got an acre cleared for the House and Garden, having got our House up 18 by 24; we commenced school on the 16th of May. The Indians have cleared and planted 15 acres—their living has been poor, as they raised little or nothing last year—their main dependence is fish. Our Indian Society members are about 40, ten of whom have been added since our arrival here. Our meetings are well attended and are sometimes powerful, the whole number that belong to this tribe is found to be 177. The greater part make their home here, others are expected this season; other scattering families and some from the other side of the Lake are expected to settle here."

You would be pleased with our situation, our house stands on the table land, above the extensive flats on the river, about one mile from the Lake, the situation very much resembles that of River Credit, only we are on the West bank of the river. A beautiful spring opens near our house. The river moves briskly, but I think is navigable for boats. On the whole, our commencement is favourable; we are encouraged with prospects of usefulness to this poor people."

This Mission is situated (as has been mentioned above) on the South side of Lake Huron, and is 70 miles from any white settlement. There are between 25 and 30 children belonging to the school; one of whom reads in the Testament, ten are spelling in three and four syllables, the rest in words of one syllable and learning the alphabet.

#### MACKINAW, SAUT ST. MARY.

John Sunday accompanied by some of his native brethren, has twice visited this region, and it seems from his journal, and from communications from that quarter, that the Lord is there opening a great and effectual door to preach his word. The field is very extensive and is already "white to harvest." There are many thousands of Indians who speak the Chippeway tongue, scattered throughout the north and extending even to the foot of the Rocky Mountains in the west, many of whom, no doubt could be Christianized, were Missionaries and Teachers sent among them. Through the instrumentality of John Sunday and his companions, fifty of these poor wandering Indians have professed faith in Christ, and between one and two hundred more gave him pledges that they would embrace the Christian Religion, should

there be a missionary sent among them. During Sunday's stay there he established a temporary school where he taught about 20 children, and a number of adults the Alphabet, to spell &c. and he says from every quarter the cry could be heard "come over and help us." How powerful should this cry effect us, and what strong claims has the Society upon the liberality of the Christian public. Your Committee are assured, did the Society possess the means, they would not fail to find the men, through the instrumentality of whom, the "glad tidings of great joy" would be sent to these perishing thousands, "now sitting in the valley and shadow of death."

#### TRANSLATIONS AND PRINTING.

In addition to the Hymn Book, in Mohawk; the Gospels of Luke and Mark, and a small Spelling Book, heretofore published; the Gospel of Matthew has just been completed and will soon be published. The Mohawk will be printed on opposite pages with the English, when this is done, the five Nations, will have the four Gospels in the Mohawk language, which they all understand.

In the Chippaway (O-chip-way) beside the Hymn Book in that tongue, already published, the Gospels of Matthew and John, have been translated by the Messrs. Jones, at the expense of the York Bible Society, the former will soon be printed by that Society, the latter is taken to England by Mr. P. Jones, to be printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It is expected that both Gospels will in a few months be put into the hands of the Chippaway Christians, 150 of whose children now read both in Indian and in English.

The Society will proceed, to have the remaining portions of the New Testament translated and published in the Chippaway, and they will proceed the more cheerfully in this good work, encouraged by the liberality of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who have forwarded one hundred pounds, requesting the whole New Testament may be translated and printed at their expense.

#### SUMMARY AND GENERAL REMARKS.

There are under the superintendence of the Society at the present time, nine Missionary Stations, besides places and tribes which have been occasionally visited, and in some of which places conversions have taken place, and societies have been formed. There are employed at these stations nine missionaries, who impart religious instruction to about 2000 adult Indians. These missionaries are assisted by a number of native exhorters who are employed on special missions or otherwise, as occasion may require. Besides these, the Rev. Peter Jones, native missionary, is appointed to labour among his brethren generally throughout the province.

There are eleven schools & as many teachers, in which about 400 children are taught, 150 of whom can read in the Testament. The Society has it in contemplation to establish other missions and schools the ensuing season, and the Board has passed resolutions to that effect.

By referring to the Treasurer's Report it will be seen, that several benevolent individuals have subscribed ten dollars a year for ten years to the funds of the Society; and several others have presented the Society with very liberal donations.—To such individuals the Society is under special obligations, whilst its best thanks are presented to all the friends of Indian Missions, who, according to their several ability, have helped on with this good work. The continuance of their aid is most respectfully and earnestly solicited, under the firm persuasion that it will not be in vain in the Lord.

On reviewing the operations of the Society, the Treasurer's report of its financial concerns, and the field of missionary labour yet unoccupied, or very partially cultivated, the following facts have suggested themselves:

1. That the practicability of reforming and civilizing the Indian tribes is no longer a matter of doubtful speculation, but a fact established by the most indubitable evidence.
2. That the Missions and Schools generally are in a state of encouraging prosperity, not exceeded at any former period since their first establishment.
3. That a remarkable Divine influence has attended the labours of the Missionaries and Teachers; which proves their work to be of God, and that their labours are, in an especial manner, owned and blessed by Him.

4. That a large moral territory has been won, great changes and improvements have been effected, and an extensive system of benevolent operations is now being carried on, with very limited but judiciously applied means.
5. That the present funds of the Society are altogether inadequate to support the Missions and Schools already established, and furnish the means of imparting the instructions of religion and the blessings of civilized life to those numerous bodies of Indians who inhabit the forests of the West and North, who are hungering and thirsting for the bread and water of eternal life, and on whose benighted minds the light of christian truth has never shone.

Shall any Mission or School be permitted to fail, or the operations of the Society be retarded? or any portion of the original proprietors of our soil be left to perish for lack of knowledge whilst we have the means to impart it to them? The parting command of our Saviour, "go teach all nations," forbids it; christian sympathy forbids it. They need our aid, they ask it—they must perish without. The long-tried and numerous friends of Indian Missions can afford them aid without robbing themselves or their children. The Owner of the earth and its treasures has abundantly blessed very many of them in their basket and in their store since they began to contribute to this treasury. He will continue to bless the cheerful giver here—the promises of the gospel assure him of a rich reward hereafter—and the blood-washed souls of converted heathen will rise up in the day of eternity and call him blessed. But let it never be forgotten that every gift should be accompanied with humble and faithful prayer to Him who gives the increase, and then shall it accomplish the thing whereunto it is sent.

### FAMILY PRAYER.

Rev. Sir,—Judging the following interesting narrative may be useful to many of your readers—I hand it for insertion in your valuable paper, and I am dear Sir, your's affectionately.

WM. LAWSON.

York, Feb. 20th, 1832.

A pious tradesman conversing with a minister on family worship, related the following highly instructive circumstance respecting himself.

"When I first began business for myself, I was determined through grace, to be particularly conscientious with respect to Family Prayer. Accordingly; I persevered for many years in the delightful practice of domestic worship. Morning and evening every individual of my family was ordered always to be present; nor would I allow my apprentices to be absent on any account. In a few years the advantages of these engagements appeared manifestly conspicuous: the blessings of the upper and the nether springs followed me, health and happiness attended my family, and prosperity my business. At length such was my rapid increase in trade, and the necessity of devoting every possible moment to my customers, that I began to think whether family prayer did not occupy too much time in the morning. Pious scruples arose respecting my intentions of relinquishing this part of my duty; but at length worldly interest prevailed so far as to induce me to excuse the attendance of my apprentices, and not long after, it was deemed advisable, for the more eager prosecution of our business, to make prayer with my wife, when we arose in the morning, suffice for the day.

Notwithstanding the repeated checks of conscience that followed this base omission, the calls of a flourishing concern, and the prospects of an increasing family appeared so imperious and commanding, that I found an easy excuse for this fatal evil, especially as I did not omit prayer altogether. My conscience was now almost seared with a hot iron; when it pleased the Lord to awaken me by a singular Providence.

One day I received a letter from a young man who had formerly been my apprentice, previous to my omitting family prayer. Not doubting but I continued domestic worship, his letter was chiefly on that subject; it was couched in the most affectionate and respectful terms; but judge my surprise and confusion, when I read these words:—"O, my dear master, never, never, shall I be able sufficiently to thank you for the precious privilege with which you indulged me in your family devotions. Oh, Sir, eternity will be too short to praise my God for what I learned there. It was here that I first beheld my lost and wretched state as a sinner; it was here that I first knew the way of salvation; and here that I first experienced the preciousness of 'Christ in me the hope of glory.' Oh, Sir! permit me to say, never, never, neglect those precious engagements you have got a family, and more apprentices; may your house be the birth place of their souls."

I could read no further; every line flashed conviction in my face—I trembled—I shuddered—I was alarmed at the blood of my children and apprentices, that I apprehended were soon to be demanded at my soul-murdering hands! Filled with confusion, & bathed in tears, I fled for refuge in secret—I spread the letter before God.—I agonized, and—but you can better conceive, than I can describe my feelings; suffice it to say, that light broke in upon my disconsolate soul, a sense of blood bought pardon was obtained, &c. &c. I immediately flew to my family, presented them before the Lord, and from that day to the present I have been, and am determined through grace, that whenever business becomes too large to permit family prayer, I will give up the superfluous part of my business, and retain my devotion. Better to lose a few shillings, than become the deliberate murderer of my family, and the instrument of ruin to my own soul."—*Primitive Methodist Magazine July 1824*

To the Editor of the Christian Guardian

WAINFLEET, Feb. 9th, 1832.

DEAR SIR.—By a careful perusal of your widely circulated paper, for near one and a half years, I am convinced of its extensive usefulness and devotedness to Religion, morality and general intelligence. I send you a sketch of a remarkable conversion which took place on the Canborough Circuit, which I hope may be found worthy of a place in your miscellany.

Mr. F—who is a farmer and the father of a large family, has long been remarked for wickedness and open rebellion against God; profane language composing the tenor of his conversation until convicted by brother G's preaching. He remained under some serious impressions for six weeks. His wife becoming a member of the church, the thoughts of eternal things still bore with increasing weight upon his mind, till at length the time arrived that God for Christ's sake was to effect the great work. His wife on the evening of the third inst. was watching at the house of mourning, about two miles from home; the father being in bed with a sick child, arose at one o'clock in the morning to get the child a drink, and was immediately seized with a strange feeling, and tho' he was about to be removed to a world of spirits, and be irretrievably lost forever. He called up his children and related his condition to them, and sent for his wife and Brother C— to come.—He, together with his children, continued in prayer until the break of day, crying in language of deep penitence, that God would have mercy upon him a miserable sinner. At length his wife and Brother C— came. They heard him at some distance from the house, cry mightily what he should do to be saved. On their entering the house, he met them at the door, and taking each by the hand, said "O my dear wife pray for me—Brother C— pray for me." They instructed him to believe with all his heart in Christ, who tasted death for us. They died that we might live a heart unto righteousness; sovereign mercy just as the efficacy of the blood of



from all sin, &c. After a few words of exhortation, they joined in prayer and in a few minutes he exclaimed, that he believed the Lord would bless him, and immediately said, the Lord has blessed me, and arose and gave glory to God, ascribing praises to his adorable name. The Tuesday following he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and remains a bright witness for Jesus, and is able to testify that God hath power on earth to forgive sins.

L. M.

### Temperance.

For the Christian Guardian.

#### UNION-STREET TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

This Society held its first Annual Meeting on Tuesday the 18th day of October, pursuant to notice, at which time and place a very excellent and appropriate sermon was preached on the subject by the Rev. Mr. Harmon. This Society was formed with 18 members, it now consists of sixty-three in good standing. The death of this Society has often been predicted, but like the Israelites of old, the more it has been afflicted the more it has multiplied.

N. Goodell, Secretary.

#### AMELIASBURGH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

We have to apologise for the non-appearance of the Report of this Society, dated Dec. 4th, 1831, received the early part of the winter, through J. Roblin, Esq. M. P. It was accidentally mislaid, and escaped our notice until a day or two ago. As the Report principally refers to local matters then transpiring, its insertion is unnecessary at this late period. The Society numbered 67 members—it had met with powerful opposition—in some cases from professors of religion! But its prospects were encouraging.

To the Editor of the Christian Guardian.

Rev. Sir:

By request of the Grimby Gore Temperance Society, I send you the following as its first Annual Report.

This Society was formed Jan. 20th, 1831, upon the principle of total abstinence except "by the advice of a regular bred Physician," and like most others of the name met with its share of opposition from a few who still wished to retain the privilege of "taking a little." However we find that opposition ceases in proportion as the subject is investigated. There are now 35 members in Society at its first Anniversary (Jan. 20), and although the conditions of membership have been thought too rigid, there has been no complaint brought before the Society thus far at least, and all seem fully established in the opinion of Solomon—"Strong drink only 'to him who is ready to perish." After closing the business of the Society for the past year, the following persons were chosen agreeably to the constitution to serve as officers for the present year:

Mr. ROBERT MERRITT, President.

"JESSE BALDWIN, Vice-President.

"THOS. H. BRIDGEMAN, Secretary.

With a Committee of eight persons.

It was then resolved that this society be considered an Auxiliary to the U. C. Temperance Society at York, and a Report of the same forwarded to the Christian Guardian for publication.

Your obedient servant,

ARSON C. SEVER.

Grimby, 23rd Feb. 1832.

For the Christian Guardian.

#### LONDON UNION TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The second Monthly Meeting for the present year, of the London Union Temperance Society took place the evening of the 14th instant, in the Union School House. After an appropriate address from the President, and the reading of the Constitution by the Secretary, and some remarks from other persons present, seven were added to the Society. Eight had joined since the January Monthly meeting—one was expelled—one withdrawn—leaving a total of 147 members.

In the course of the meeting, one person arose and bore testimony that joining the Temperance Society had been the means of leading him to serious reflection, which had, by the Divine blessing, terminated in his seeking and obtaining peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROBERT KEYS, Secretary.

London, Feb. 18th, 1832.

#### SCARBORO' TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Pursuant to notice a public meeting was held in the Lamereux settlement, township of Scarborough, on the 31st of January 1832, at which a Temperance Society was formed, consisting of 50 members. The Rev. Mr. Jenkins addressed the meeting on the occasion. The following persons were appointed officers for the ensuing year.

Mr. ASA PATRICK, President.

Mr. JOHN KENNEDY, Vice-President.

Mr. DUNCAN WIER, Secretary.

Committee.—Messrs. Michael Yeomans, William Earl, Leonard Salisbury, Thomas Snock, Henry Kennedy, Henry Earl, John Lamereux, senr., John Shelton.

The first public meeting of this Society was held on the evening of the 22nd instant, when several addresses were delivered to a large collection of people. The Society now contains 63 members. Its salutary influence is visibly felt and seen in the neighborhood already and its prospects are encouraging.

DUNCAN WIER, Secretary.

For the Christian Guardian.

At a meeting of the Trafalgar Temperance Society convened, pursuant to previous notice, on the 27th December, the meeting was addressed by the Rev. James Evans.

Resolved.—That this Society be called Auxiliary to the York U. C. Temperance Society. The following persons were chosen to act the ensuing year:

SAMUEL BOWMAN, President.

WILLIAM J. SEARS, Vice-President.

WILLIAM E. CLAYTON, Secretary.

Committee.—George Melholland, David Freeland, Richard Freeland, Wm. Jackson, James Kenney. The Society is rapidly increasing, although we have great opposition to so good a cause. May the Lord prosper his good begun work, till the demon intemperance is bound down to his own place.

For the Christian Guardian.

Murray, Newcastle District, Feb. 21, 1832.

DEAR SIR:—Agreeably to public notice, a meeting was held in the School house in the second concession of the Township of Murray, on the 12th of December, 1831. When Mr. Charles H. Davis was called to the chair, and Mr. Stephen Young was requested to act as Secretary.

It was Resolved, by a majority of the meeting, That they do now form themselves into a Temperance Society to be called "The first Murray Temperance Society." The following persons were appointed officers of the Society.

Mr. HARVEY BRUNDAGE, President.

"ENOCH HARRINGTON, Vice-President.

"STEPHEN YOUNG, Secretary.

"STEPHEN CAMPBELL, Secretaries.

Committee.—Messrs. Gibb Squiers, Isaiah Hasard, Peter Clapp, John Waldron, James Rankin, Philip Waldron, Samuel Young.

Twenty persons became members by subscribing constitution. The Society now numbers 25 members. We believe that the cause of temperance is in your useful paper.

It is, I trust, your servant,

JESSE YOUNG, Secretary.

## CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN.

Wednesday, February 29, 1832.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY has just been printed at this office. It will be ready for delivery in a few days.—Wishing to circulate this Report as widely as possible, we have inserted the body of it on the first page of this day's paper. We shall likewise insert the Treasurer's Report as soon as we can conveniently make room for it.

This important document will be read with deep interest by the friends of Indian Missions. It presents an encouraging account of the operations of the Society and the state of its Missions.

The general remarks at the conclusion of the Report supercede the necessity of our adding anything more on the subject of it in this place.

By a letter recently received from the Thames, we learn that the gospel is being introduced among a large body of Indians on Bear River, who had up to this time rejected it. About a dozen had renounced the use of ardent spirits, and several had experienced that "Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to him that believeth." This work has commenced and it is progressing through the instrumentality of a native labourer from Muncey Mission.

God does not despise the day of small things, either as it regards the insignificance of the instruments employed, or the smallness of the seed sown. Under the culture of His grace and providence, it soon becomes a large and fruitful tree, affording immortal food to many a perishing traveller, and a refreshing shade to many a weary pilgrim.

From these small beginnings does the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the dry land springs of water.

In 1824 a Peter Jones is converted at a despoised, calumniated Methodist Camp meeting. From this first fruit, a large & abundant harvest has already been gathered, and other more extended fields are already white for harvest.

Is it a cunningly devised fable, which has produced these results? Is it a corrupted ministry whose labours have thus been accompanied with the power and demonstration of the Spirit? Is it the unaided counsel of man, which has, in a short period, made "new creatures" of several tribes of the most vicious and degraded of the human race?

The same Gospel that has saved these hundreds, has been and will be life eternal to thousands and millions more. And the obligations of every Christian to do all in his power to "preach the Gospel to every creature," will never cease or be relaxed "until all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest." These obligations impose a tax upon all that we have and are—upon our affections, graces, wealth, influence and talents. The payment of this tax is indispensable. The nonpayment of it will involve the defaulter in perpetual imprisonment. The willing and prompt payment of it, so far from exhausting our resources or proving burdensome to us, will, on the contrary, increase our store, promote our liberty and happiness, and entitle us, through the blood of the Lamb, to a key which will open to us the store house of the richest treasures "of the life that now is," and "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" "in that which is to come."

Moreover the work of righteousness, and Christianizing the world, becomes increasingly delightful as the Christian advances in it, until he, in his views, dispositions, inclinations and pursuits, becomes so "change from glory to glory" into the image of Christ, that it is his greatest joy and chief happiness "not to live to himself but to him who died for him and rose again." And the "song of rejoicing and salvation, heard in the tabernacle" of converted Indians, has, we doubt not, already rewarded many of their benefactors for their labours of love, and excited an enlarged desire in their hearts to continue and multiply them; and more especially when it is considered that this reward of satisfaction, at witnessing the first fruits of their labour, is but the earnest of that reward which shall be administered, when the Judge of all the earth shall say to them, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

TEMPERANCE.—By referring to the articles under the head of Temperance, it will be perceived, that public attention is waking up to this subject to a degree not known before, and which argues well for the hoped for banishment of intemperance from our land. We have also received several other reports of Temperance Societies during the week, which we are obliged to defer. We beg to inform the friends of temperance throughout the province that the Committee of the York U. C. Temperance Society are making arrangements which will most the wishes of several of our correspondents, and contribute, we trust, greatly to the promotion of the Temperance Reform.

Bellville, Feb. 18th, 1832.

DEAR BROTHER:—The following is from a letter of Geo. Ryerson, Esq. dated London, Dec. 14th, 1831.

"God is very gracious to us, our health is good, very good; Brother Jones has been interrupted in his work of translating by the death of Mr. Greenfield, of the Bible Society; but is now proceeding in the work by the request of the Society. Times are bad and things so unsettled that you cannot expect much more in the way of collecting while we remain. In this country the preaching of the word does not seem to have much power to convert. An eminent divine remarked to me a few days since, that he believed it to be a ministry of condemnation, and that great judgments would soon follow."

The following is from the Rev. Peter Jones of the same date, "Hitherto my time has been principally occupied in attending meetings for the Wesleyan Missionary Society, in consideration of their grant of three hundred pounds to our Canada Mission. I am happy to say that my feeble services have been well received everywhere, which has been a matter of peculiar encouragement to me, in my endeavours to promote the cause of Missions. The warm reception I have met with among the Christians of England has been very gratifying to me, while in a strange land. I have not been able to collect much for our Mission since I wrote you, nor is it likely that much can be obtained for any benevolent object while the country remains in its present state of agitation. The religious Tract Society has granted five pounds in books and Tracts and ten pounds towards printing any translations I may make from their books or tracts. I have made a similar application to the Sunday School Union Society, who have made a grant of books, but I have not learned to what amount. G. Ryerson, Esq. has succeeded in getting a grant of one hundred pounds, from the 'New-England Company' to aid our Mohawk brethren in their efforts to erect a Saw Mill at the Salt Springs on the Grand River. It is a donation to Moses Walker for that purpose. I expect to obtain several Boxes of different ar-

ticles for the Schools and Missions, which the Ladies in different towns, and cities have made. A thousand copies of the Gospel of St. John in the Chipewyan language have been printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and will be forwarded to Canada in the spring. Most of my time during the winter will be employed in translating the Epistles of Peter and John, which the British and Foreign Bible Society will print immediately. I regret to inform you that our active friend in the translating, Mr. Wm. Greenfield, died of a brain fever about 6 weeks since. His loss is severely felt by the Bible Society. I was with him a few days before his death. He manifested much anxiety that I should go on with the work. He was a very amiable and useful man. We think to leave this country about the 1st of May next for home, sweet home in Canada. By the CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN, I learn the death of Mrs. Case! How mysterious the ways of Providence! I feel that the Indians have lost a mother in Israel. She counted not her life dear to herself, but left all she held dear to encounter the toils of a Missionary's life, and in the work of instructing the Indian females and children she ended her life!

My love to all the Indian brethren, whom I pray for every day. KAU-KE-WA-QUON-A-BY.

### SELF DEFENCE.

When we commenced our Editorial labours, we stated that our business was with things not men. But certain men, at different times, have taken so much pains to attract our notice, that we could hardly avoid making them a short bow in return.

On our first entrance into the field, though we sought to live in peace with all men, a portion of the U. C. Press assumed a hostile attitude. It assailed not our positions or principles; had it done so, in the style of fair discussion, it would have been respected, and our public opponents might have been respected and treated as our private friends. But instead of endeavouring to oppose truth to error, and argument to sophistry, it sought to overthrow our positions and destroy the influence of our principles by trying to murder our reputation and that of the body with which we are connected. It is plain, therefore, that in proportion to the influence of that part of the press which is resolved to feast its savage appetite upon nothing else in this wide and varied world, than the ruined character of the Methodists, Methodist Preachers and the Editor of the Guardian, will be their loss, in their influence, reputation and means of doing good.

Out of justice therefore, to ourselves and regard to the cause which we have espoused, we are sometimes reduced to the painful necessity of holding up the newspaper assassin in his real character, in order that the world may be able to judge of the degree of confidence to be placed in his statements and his patriotism, and to form correct notions of the true character and object of the policy which he is employed to promote. It is under the influence of these considerations, that we have felt it our disagreeable duty to write a few notices in this paper, headed, "Spirit of High Church Toryism." If the gentlemen noticed, should feel themselves wounded, or suffer loss, they must blame themselves for it, and can soon recover from the injury sustained by keeping the ninth and tenth commandments.

MR. BIDWELL'S SPEECH on the second reading of Intestate Estate Bill is concluded in this day's paper. The former part of this eloquent speech, published last week, contains a great deal of valuable information on the law of descent and the making of wills; the remainder of it, published to day, embraces an extensive field of legal, historical and political observation. It is in fact an essay on government itself; and it abounds in sentiments as just and as applicable to the present times as they are ingenious and acute. There is an interest infused into almost every paragraph by the master spirit and philanthropic heart of the orator, which will relieve the reader from weariness, and fasten his attention until he has finished it, as formidable as its length may appear.

From the Canadian Watchman.

Extract from the Quarterly Register.

### PETITIONING IN BEHALF OF PUBLIC OBJECTS.

"Within thirty years past, the philanthropists and Christians of England have accomplished several important objects by petitioning Parliament. Among these are the abolition of the slave trade; the introduction of Christianity into British India; the repeal of the corporation and tests' acts; the Catholic emancipation bill; and the abolition of the practice of burning widows in India. The same men are now calling the attention of Parliament to the subject of the final and total abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions."

"Petitioning, therefore, or a frank and earnest exposition of our views and feelings, should be regarded by Christians as a most sacred duty, and a most invaluable privilege. Whenever we see a great public interest neglected, an important right invaded, or an ordinance of heaven, which is cognizable by human statute infringed or desecrated, by our rulers or any class of men, it is our business respectfully, firmly, unitedly to tell them so. We neglect a momentous trust when we slight or undervalue the elective franchise. Alas! blame-worthy are we also, if we do not lift our voice in solemn remonstrance, and earnest petition, whenever the providence of God calls us to it. A half civilized people, when their rights are invaded, will assert them in blood and in fire. A conscientious Christian community will vindicate their rights by clear argument and strenuous appeal."

"In the whole history of the human race, there is hardly a more sublime spectacle than was exhibited in Britain, when hundreds of thousands, year after year, for the space of thirty years, addressed Parliament in behalf of African rights. No event on record so raised up the whole moral capabilities of a nation. It made philanthropists, not only of Wilberforce and of Clarkson, but of multitudes of others from the Land's End to the Orkneys. The same awakened conscience, the same ardent love of mankind, the same indomitable perseverance, which triumphed in the House of Commons, triumphed also among the manufacturers of Manchester, and in the mines of Cornwall. That event—the abolition of the slave trade—exerted a very great collateral and indirect influence. The power to do good, which England now possesses, and which she so gloriously illustrates, was called into vigorous being more by that event than by any thing else."

The above remarks, extracted from the Quarterly Register, might be further corroborated by the more recent petitions and re-petitions presented to the British Parliament from all parts of Great Britain, on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. They are also equally applicable to this Province, at the present interesting crisis. We have important interests and rights depending upon the discretion of His Majesty and the Imperial Parliament and upon our Provincial Legislature; rights and interests affecting ourselves and our posterity. And it is our duty, as Christians and good subjects, to petition for the measures of reform and improvement, which we desire, and like Wilberforce, Clarkson, and other friends of liberty and civil and religious rights and reform, in the mother country, to persevere in our petitions and efforts, until we obtain the objects prayed for. To such united and persevering exercise of our constitutional right of petitioning we are encouraged, not more by the example of our fellow subjects in the parent country, than by the known experience of its beneficial effects.

CANADIENSIS.

LENOX & ADDINGTON COUNTY MEETING.—This meeting, it will be recollected, was convened by the county representatives, Messrs. Bidwell and Perry; and no doubt, from the well known prudence, constitutional principles, and patriotism of these gentlemen, much anxiety has been felt throughout the province to learn the result of the Lenox & Addington county meeting.—The resolutions adopted by it will be found in another column, as also the petition drafted by the Committee which was appointed for that purpose. The petition can be adopted in other counties by altering two words.

On account of the Lt. Governor's attack upon the Methodists and the friends of religious liberty generally, and his throwing the whole influence of his administration into the scale against them, we are placed in circumstances which render it proper and necessary that we should avow our sentiments and express our hope for the success of those constitutional measures which are requisite for self-defence and protection.

The Lt. Governor has given great offence to a large portion of the resident inhabitants of the country, by the intimation that emigration from Great Britain was necessary to infuse British feelings among its population; as also by the remark in his reply to the Methodist Conference, that American emigrants had sought an "asylum" in this country—the form of expression implying that they had fled here for want of protection elsewhere, or had escaped from states prison, or from under the lash of a Virginia slave-holder.

In that part of the petition which relates to the Lt. Governor, the friends of civil and religious liberty (the Methodists especially) have a peculiarly deep interest. His Excellency's attack, in reply to the address of the Methodist Conference, was not upon the Methodists as Methodists, (though the principal odium of it must of course fall upon them) but upon them as unfriendly to a Church establishment in Canada. All therefore who agree with the Methodists on this point, fall equally under his displeasure, and must expect a like place on his black list in the whole policy of his administration. If Canada is ever to be freed from the yoke of religious despotism, and if this is the object of the present liberal government of England, the head of the Colonial Government should think with the people, and have a disposition to carry the Royal instructions into effect.

Rulers should always be treated with reverence and spoken of with respect. But neither scripture nor reason deny to the subject the exercise of the rights secured to him by the constitution under which he lives, or shuts his mouth to the illegal acts of rulers. St. Paul charged the Roman Magistrates with their unlawful proceedings, and did not hesitate to appeal from an inferior to a higher tribunal, before which the Governor of a Province and the objects of his unjust acts, are alike subjects and stand upon a level.

We close our remarks with the following extract from the celebrated Locke, whose sentiments are equally revered with his name, by philosophers, divines and statesmen.

"When the governors have brought it to this pass, to be generally suspected of their people; the most dangerous state which they can possibly put themselves in; wherein they are the less to be pitied, because it is so easy to be avoided: it being as impossible for a governor, if he really means the good of his people, and the preservation of them, and their laws together, not to make them see and feel it, as it is for the father of a family, not to let his children see he loves, and takes care of them."

"But if all the world shall observe pretences of one kind, and actions of another; arise used to elude the law, and the trust of prerogative (which is an arbitrary power in some things left in the prince's hand to do good, not harm to the people) employed contrary to the end for which it was given: if the people shall find the ministers and subordinate magistrates chosen suitable to such ends, and favoured, or laid by, proportionably as they promote or oppose them; if they see several experiments made of arbitrary power, and that religion underhand favoured; (though publicly proclaimed against) which is readiest to introduce it; and the operators in it supported, as much as may be; and when that cannot be done, yet approved still, and liked the better: if a long train of actions show the counsels all tending that way; how can a man any more hinder himself from being persuaded in his own mind, which way things are going; or from casting about how to save himself, than he could from believing the captain of the ship he was in, was carrying him, and the rest of his company to Algiers, when he found him always steering that course, though cross winds, leaks in his ship, and want of men and provisions did often force him to turn his course another way for some time; which he steadily returned to again, as soon as the wind, weather, and other circumstances would let him"—Locke on Government, pp. 268—270. Latest Eng. Edition.

### NINE DAYS LATER FROM ENGLAND.

By the packet Ships Tally Ho and Nimrod, from Liverpool, English papers have been received at New York to the 9th of January inclusive.

### REFORM BILL.

The most important news by these arrivals is the final decision of the British Cabinet to create a sufficient number of new peers to carry the Reform Bill through the House of Lords. The Liverpool Albion of the 9th of January says—

"The early triumph of the cause of reform is now certain. The King, of his own free will as much as by the advice of his ministers, has determined to create a sufficient number of peers to ensure the success of the reform bill. The step is bold, but it is strictly constitutional. It is the least of two evils between which the Government had to choose. The anti-reform peers are understood to be as hostile to the new as they were to the old bill, and are as determined to reject it. Under these circumstances, the King and his ministers have been compelled, reluctantly so, we have no doubt, to save the peers themselves from destruction and the country from revolution and anarchy, by making an addition to the peerage itself. The anti-reformers, have brought the evil, if evil it be, on themselves, by their own obstinacy and selfishness."

The London Morning Post, the principal organ of the Tory anti-reformers, admits the final arrangement of the plan for the creation of new peers, in the following caustic remarks:

"All doubts respecting the result of Lord Grey's interview with the King at Brighton on Tuesday, appear to be at an end. The good nature of the Monarch has yielded to the subtle importunities of the Minister; and it is finally determined that the Peerage of the empire is to be degraded by an unexampled increase of its number, for the purpose of enabling Lord Grey and Durham to carry their revolutionary project into effect."

The same paper animadverts thus upon the consistency of Earl Grey's conduct in resorting to this extreme measure:

"How the Premier will be able to reconcile his conduct, in this instance, with the unequivocally expressed sentiments against its legality on a recent occasion, remains to be seen. But nothing can prevent him from standing before Parliament and the country a self-proclaimed violator of the Constitution, after his open and candid admission in the House of Lords, that an increase in the Peerage with a view to carry a disputed question between the two Houses of Parliament would be in the highest degree unconstitutional."

It will be perceived that the Reform measure, sanctioned by the King and demanded by the nation, is called a "revolutionary project" by its enemies, and Earl Grey, the head of the King's Government, is called a "self-proclaimed violator of the Constitution." Similar epithets are applied to friends of Reform in Canada from similar sources. But the King and his Govern-

ment, backed by the nation, take the lead in it—its final success is certain. The Morning Post might have involved himself in a House of Commons prosecution, had he happened to have called the noble Premier a "sycophant," instead of a "self-proclaimed violator of the Constitution."

### PROGRESS OF THE CHOLERA IN ENGLAND.

The following article from the Liverpool Albion of January 9, gives an interesting account of the progress of the Cholera in England, from the 2nd to the 5th January, inclusive. We perceive, with pain, that the fearful malady has reached Edinburgh.

#### NEWCASTLE.

	New Cases.	Recov.	Died.	Remain.
January 2,	15	12	6	103
3,	45	20	14	116
4,	20	19	6	120
5,	10	5	5	120

The Tyne Mercury observes—"We can no longer say that the cholera morbus is confined to the streets in the lower part of Newcastle. It has reached the Manor-chase, Lowbridge, Newgate-street, Percy-st., Prudhoe-st., and some others. It has extended also to the West-gate. It has followed the course of the river, and has not only attacked the village of St. Anthony's, St. Peter's, Dent's Hole, Wallsend, Howden, and Walker, but has appeared up the water at Leamington, Ryton, &c. At Seghill it still continues, though not so virulent as it was."

GATESHEAD.—The following official table shows its progress to the 5th of January:

	New Cases.	Recov.	Died.	Remain.
January 2,	18	15	8	63
3,	10	11	5	80
4,	25	11	5	93
5,	16	19	9	82

Two facts connected with this sudden and destructive attack upon the inhabitants of Gateshead deserve particular notice. On the night preceding, and on the night of Christmas day, an unusual number of people there drank largely of ardent spirits; many of them were seen reeling in the streets. The wind, which had been previously from the south, veered to the north on the night of the 24th, and continued in the same direction on the 25th December. Precaution was taken to prevent the intoxication of the people on New-Year's eve and night, by closing the public houses. The good effect of this was remarkable; in the report of Sunday, the 1st of January, there was only one death. The class of persons attacked in Gateshead, and elsewhere, are the dissipated, the filthy, the ill-fed, the broken in constitution, and those who have been exposed to a polluted atmosphere.

SUNDERLAND.—There has not been a death for several days, and the disease appears to be almost extinct.

NORTH SHIELDS.—There has been a trifling increase of cases at this place. In all there have been 12 deaths and 6 recoveries.

HADDINGTON, N. B.—The disorder still rages at this place. The following were the returns on Thursday and Friday:

	New Cases.	Recov.	Died.	Remain.
January 5,	3	1	1	9
6,	6	3	2	11

Total cases from the commencement of the disease, 23. Total deaths, 10. We regret to learn, that the disease is spreading in the vicinity of Haddington. Two cases have occurred at Beanton Mill, three at Athelstaneford, and one at Whittinghame. At the former place, one of the cases proved fatal, and one recovered. At the other places, the four cases remained under treatment on Friday.

EDINBURGH.—We regret to have to state, that this awful scourge of the human race has actually visited the metropolis of Scotland. The Edinburgh papers scarcely allude to the fact, but the existence of the disorder there is confirmed by private letters received in Liverpool, and especially by a letter addressed to the Lord Provost by Mr. Sanders, and which is published in the Caledonian Mercury of Saturday. The first case occurred on Thursday, in the house No. 4, West Adam-street; the sufferer's name is Leech, and the medical men pronounced the case to be one of a decisive character, an unequivocal example of the spasmodic cholera.

GRAND TOTALS.—Cases from the commencement of the disease, 1,490. Deaths from ditto, 560.

THE BRISTOL PRISONERS.—The special commission for the trial of the prisoners implicated in the Bristol riot, was opened in Bristol on the 2nd ult. Some tumult was anticipated, but no attempt at violence occurred. The Lord Chief Justice charged the Grand Jury at great length. Six persons were put to the bar on the 3d, charged with having assembled riotously on the 30th October last, and having broken open the goal and the house of the governor. The trial lasted all day. The Jury were charged by the Chief Justice on the next morning, and after having been out for three hours and a half returned with a verdict of guilty against five of the prisoners. Charles the ringleader, a muscular looking man, tainted in Court several times during the trial. Two lads were then tried for assault, &c. and for firing the house of the Bishop. They were convicted. A Captain Lewis who shot a boy with a pistol, during the riot, was discharged from his copartizance, the Grand Jury having ignored the bill against him. On the 5th, five persons, two of whom had been convicted on the first trial, were tried for demolishing the Bridewell, and were all found guilty. On the 6th, six others were convicted of arson.

The Treaty of settlement between Holland and Belgium has not yet been ratified by the northern powers. The sincerity of Russia is strongly suspected by some; others attribute the long silence of the Autocrat to a feeling of delicacy towards Holland.

### FRANCE.

The Paris papers give an account of a violent and tumultuous proceeding in the French Chamber of Deputies. The minister of Public Instruction, in defending a larger vote of money than had been proposed by the commission, said, in reply to a deputy,—"If you banish luxury from the palace of the King, it will soon be banished from the houses of his subjects." The deputies of the extremities of the Chamber, cried aloud "Louis Philip has no subjects." "Those who make their Kings, are no longer subjects, but citizens." The scene of disorder that ensued was disgraceful, and the sittings closed in disorder, reproaches, threatenings, and confusion.

### Postscript.

English News have been received to the 11th of January. The number of new peers to be created to carry the Reform Bill is stated to be 45 or 50.

Ireland is in a distracted state. Orange Lod







## Provincial Parliament.

## SUBSTANCE OF MR. BIDWELL'S SPEECH ON THE SECOND READING OF HIS INTENTED ESTATE BILL.

(Continued.)

You will observe, Sir, that in these remarks, I have assumed the injustice of the present law; for I have confined my attention to the argument, that however unjust the law of primogeniture might be in its operation, its injustice was obviated by the power of making a will, which, it is said, (though, as I have shown, in some measure erroneously said,) every man possesses, and that there was therefore, no necessity for this bill. I hope I have refuted this objection, and have proved its necessity by various considerations. Having removed this preliminary objection, I shall revert to the proposition which I stated some time ago, that laws, on such subjects as this I believe, ought to be such as the people desire, unless they are unjust in principle or manifestly inconsistent with the safety of the government. Now, I do not recollect that any one has ever contended that this bill is unjust in its principle or would operate unfairly and grievously between man and man. But I confess, Sir, that I am not contented with this negative merit of the bill. It has still higher claims upon your favor and your cordial support. It will be an honest and equitable law substituted in place of an unjust law. The injustice of the present law is so manifest, as to render proof of it unnecessary. It is unjust to the children who are disinherited, and it is unjust to society. It is inhuman in its operation; it is unnatural. The voice of nature in the heart of every parent condemns the aristocratic distinction of the law of primogeniture, and commands him to provide equally and impartially for all who owe their existence to him. He acts unjustly to society also, if he leaves them destitute and throws the burden of supporting his offspring on the community. He is manifestly bound to support them while he lives. Is not the obligation equally plain and forcible to provide for their support after his death, as far as it may be in his power, by an equal division of his property among them? Common sense, indeed, must teach any one that if there is to be any inequality in the division of his estate, it should be in favour of the weakest and youngest, who are least able to provide for themselves, and who require, besides, more to be done for them, in educating them and setting them up in life; so that the greatest share ought rather to be given to the females, or the youngest child than, according to our present absurd law, to the eldest son, who, in many cases, is comfortably provided for before his father's death. In this country, the operation of the law of primogeniture appears to me peculiarly unjust, because in many cases all the children contribute by their labour and exertions to the improvement and value of the landed property, which, nevertheless, entirely descends to the eldest son alone. They are therefore deprived not only of a fair share of their father's property, but also of their own earnings. The injustice of the law seems tacitly and virtually recognized in the statute for the distribution of personal property, and in the law regulating the succession to real estate, where the heirs are all females. In both these cases the property is equally divided amongst the children. In these cases there are no artificial reasons, derived from the policy of the feudal system, to control the distribution and descent of the property. Justice, common sense, and natural affection only have been considered. The result shows how little they are regarded in the law of primogeniture. To prove the injustice of the law, and to crumble the justice and wisdom of the principle of this bill, and how much it is adapted to the circumstances and feelings of this country, I can refer to very high authority, which is nothing less than the practice of the government of this Province. I believe, indeed, the practice, to which I refer, has the higher authority of the sanction of His Majesty's government in England. I allude to the regulation adopted by His Majesty, George the Third, as a gracious mark of his royal favour to those whom he delighted to honour, for their devoted attachment to his Person and Government, by which each of the sons and daughters of a U. E. Loyalist are entitled to a free grant of two hundred acres of land. If the law of primogeniture were wise, or just, or politic, in this Province, this Royal bounty ought to be confined to the eldest son. This regulation, therefore, is really a practical and forcible declaration of the opinion of the government on the subject. I feel, Sir, that I am arguing, at so much length, a question which, after all, can be decided summarily by an appeal to the heart of every man, or, at least, of every parent. Who can be found, that would look upon his children, and tell them, that he was determined, when he died, to turn them, as beggars, upon the world, in order that his eldest son might swagger in aristocratic pomp and haughtiness? No! Sir, Chairman, it is not necessary to argue the question of the law of primogeniture. It is a self-evident proposition, an instinctive truth, which cannot be made plainer by reasoning.

But the most grave, and formidable and vehement objections to this bill, have been founded on the assumption that its tendency would be hostile to our institutions. These are serious objections certainly, if they are all well founded; and they are peculiarly formidable because they enlist the prejudices and strongest feeling of our hearers in their favor. I must, therefore, ask the indulgence of the committee, to allow me to show that the measure is not inconsistent with the safety of the government, or the stability of its institutions, but will be conducive to the welfare of the country. The effect of the law of primogeniture is to create a landed aristocracy, or, in other words, to throw the land of the Province into the hands of a few persons, and to leave the great body of the people, without any permanent interest in the country. This bill will have a directly contrary tendency. It will promote an equal division of landed estates among the people of the Province. The question therefore, is, which of these effects is most favorable to the welfare of the country and the durability and strength of its institutions. The answer, it seems to me, is obvious; and may be found indeed, in our statute book. That an accumulation of landed estates in the hands of a few persons is a great evil, and is inconsistent with the policy of our government, is the fundamental principle of our wild-land assessment law, which was passed, chiefly, for the express purpose of compelling the landholders to part with their lands, and which was such a favorite measure with the late administration and so important in their estimation, that the members of another branch of the Legislature, as has been proved by some of their number before a committee of this House, were compelled, during the reign of terror, by a most unconstitutional coercion, to vote for it, against their own inclinations. Now, this bill will produce gradually and safely the same result which that law, in a violent manner, was expected to effect. Therefore, if the policy of that law was good, if its tendency was constitutional, no reasonable objections, on that score, can be urged against the bill. It is rather singular I think that those objections should have been insisted upon most strenuously by the warmest friends and supporters of the assessment law. The opponents of the bill refer to England, and ask us, with exultation, to look at the unrivalled pitch of glory and wealth, and power and refinement, to which she has arrived. But I confess, Sir, that I do not see in the law of primogeniture any element contributed to these wonderful results. They may be traced much more satisfactorily, in my opinion, to other causes; such as the morality and integrity of her people, their spirit and enterprise, the freedom of her laws and institutions, and the extent and activity of her commerce. These causes, at the same time, have counteracted the tendency, and more or less prevented or mitigated the evils of the law of primogeniture, which, I believe, would otherwise have become intolerable. In the vast establishment which Great Britain has maintained, at an enormous and prodigious expense, the younger branches of the great aristocratic families, whom the law of primogeniture would otherwise have left in beggary, have found situations where they could live in the splendor and luxury to which they have been accustomed. So that the people of England in fact, have been heavily taxed to support this odious and unnatural principle of primogeniture. The present condition of England, however, so far as we can judge from the accounts which we receive, affords an argument in favor of any thing rather than the law of primogeniture. Its tendency to produce an unequal division of property, is dreadfully exhibited. Its effects are, an aristocracy with the incomes of Kings, and a peasantry reduced to pauperism, and the great mass of the population without any deep and permanent interest in the maintenance of order and peace, and full of discontent. If you have a landed aristocracy, you must have a population that really have no deep or permanent interest in the peace of the country or the stability of existing institutions. It is of little consequence, then, whether they remain or remove. Whatever wealth they possess is very movable. They can transport it to other countries,

if they please. They have very little, therefore, staked on the maintenance of peace or the permanence of our institutions. Many of them, perhaps, have an interest in fomenting disorders and convulsions, in which they will lose nothing, and have a chance to gain something. But, if the landed property of the country is pretty equally divided amongst its inhabitants, you increase the number of those who have property in the country, which they cannot remove, and an interest, therefore, in remaining here, and in preserving peace and order, and in resisting foreign attacks or internal commotions, which may endanger the institutions of the country. I recollect that when this bill was under discussion last year, I referred to the conduct of the French people, during their revolution; a illustration of this sentiment. The history of a nation cannot present to us a greater contrast, than we find between the excesses and the diabolical brutality and fury of their first revolution, and their moderation and magnanimity during the last. I have no doubt that various causes contributed to produce such a wonderful improvement in their conduct; but not the least, I am persuaded, was the abolition, during the reign of Napoleon, of the law of primogeniture, and the adoption of the law of equal partition of landed estates. Under the operation of the last mentioned law, the great body of the people have become freeholders. It was their interest, therefore, to check and prevent civil war and all disorders which would put their property in jeopardy, as well as to resist the cowardly, faithless, and murderous tyrant who would have reduced them to a dependence upon his arbitrary will. The world beheld their heroic defence of their rights and liberties with admiration; but they beheld them, with still greater admiration, conducting to the borders of the kingdom in safety, the perfidious, mortified, abject despot, who had carried the streets of his capital with the blood of his subjects, and there dismissing him with cool contempt. This was a nation of freeholders, who exhibited this unparalleled and glorious example. The law of equal division of landed estates, contributed in my opinion, to this extraordinary result. In order to show more clearly how little dependence can be placed on men who are not freeholders, whatever their wealth may be, I will read an extract from the writings of Adam Smith.

"The capital that is acquired by any country by commerce and manufactures, is all a very precarious and uncertain possession; till some part of it has been secured and realised, in the permanent improvement of its lands. A merchant, it has been said very properly, is not the citizen of any particular country. It is in a great measure indifferent to him, from what place he carries on his trade, and a very trifling disgust will make him remove his capital, and with it all the industry which it supports, from one country to another. No part of it can be said to belong to any particular country, till it has been secured, as it were, over the face of that country, either in buildings or the lasting improvement of lands. No vestige now remains of the great wealth, said to have been possessed by the greater part of the Hanse towns, except in the obscure histories of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It is even uncertain where some of them were situated, or to what towns in Europe the Latin names given to some of them belong. But, though the misfortune of Italy, at the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries, greatly diminished the commerce and manufactures of the cities of Lombardy and Tuscany, those countries still continue to be among the most populous and best cultivated in Europe. The civil wars of Flanders and the Spanish Government, which succeeded them, chased away the great commerce of Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges. But Flanders still continues to be one of the richest, best cultivated and most populous provinces in Europe. The ordinary revolutions of war and Government easily dry up the sources of the wealth which arises from commerce only. That which arises from the more solid improvement of agriculture is much more durable, and cannot be destroyed, but by those violent convulsions occasioned by a century together; such as happened for a century before and after the fall of the Roman Empire, in the western provinces of Europe."

This extract shows how important it is that the landed property should generally be divided amongst the inhabitants of the country. In these new countries, people are more inclined and accustomed to rove, than in old countries. It is peculiarly easy to leave this Province, and there are many temptations to do so. But persons who own land are less likely to remove, even for a season, than others. Besides, such persons are induced by their necessities, or convenience, or pride, or honour, to expend a part of the money, gained by their industry and labour, on their land. This is so much added to the fixed and permanent wealth of the country, which cannot be lost or withdrawn. A general division of the landed property is on this account preferable to an accumulation of it in the hands of a few. The supposed tendency of the bill to produce such an effect is, therefore, a recommendation in its favour.

The evils of an accumulation of landed property & of the unequal division of it among the inhabitants of a country are described in a just and forcible manner by Sir William Blackstone in his celebrated Commentaries. On that account and because he was the advocate or rather apologist of the law of Primogeniture, I shall read the passage; although I do not admit the truth of his opinion, that the right of disposing of the property by will prevents the evils of the law of primogeniture. He says that "the ancient law of the Athenians directed that the estate of the deceased should descend to his children; or, in default of children, to his nearest relatives, should go to the collateral relations; which had an admirable effect in keeping up equality and preventing the accumulation of estates. But when Solon made a slight alteration, by permitting them (though only on failure of issue) to dispose of their lands by testament, and devise away estates from the collateral heir, this soon produced an excess of wealth in some, and poverty in others; which, by a natural progression, first produced popular tumults and dissensions; and these at length ended in tyranny, and the utter extinction of liberty: which was quickly followed by a total subversion of their state and nation. On the other hand, it would now seem hard, on account of some abuses, (which are the natural consequence of free agency, when coupled with human infirmity) to deprive the owner of lands from distributing them after his death as the exercise of his family affairs, or the justice due to his creditors may require. And this power if prudently managed, has with a peculiar propriety; by preventing the accumulation of estates, which would otherwise have produced a great accumulation of property, which is the natural consequence of our doctrine of succession by primogeniture, to which the Athenians were strangers. Of this accumulation the ill effects were severely felt even in the feudal times; but it should always be strongly discouraged in a commercial country, whose welfare depends on the number of moderate fortunes engaged in the extension of trade."

There is another consideration of a political nature in favour of this bill, which I believe has never been mentioned. The elective franchise, except in towns, is confined to freeholders. If the landed property of the country should be accumulated in the hands of a few, the elections of members of this house would be less popular, and the great body of the people would have no voice in the laws by which they would be governed. This house would cease to be the democratic branch of the Legislature, and would be converted into a mere committee of aristocrats. It might then degenerate into a syncretistic office for registering the decrees of the Executive; in which case nothing could save it from contempt, but a solemn declaration of its own imbecility, which, of course, would be an infallible method of maintaining its own dignity. At all events, it is in my opinion desirable that the number of freeholders and electors should be increased. The elective franchise ought not, upon any account, to be confined to a few persons. Whether it should be extended to those who are not freeholders, it is not necessary for us to consider. There might be well founded objections against such an extension of it. Our constitutional act does not give us the power so to enlarge it, nor would this bill produce such an effect. But that it ought to be extended by multiplying the number of freeholders, and increasing them in proportion to the whole population, seems to me undeniable. In this respect, the bill would have a gradual, but salutary and favourable, political effect.

The operation of this bill in another point of view is not unworthy the consideration of the committee. We have a large Provincial debt, and there is a fine prospect, I think, of its gradually and, I am afraid, rapidly increasing. For this debt the land really is pledged. We may certainly, directly or indirectly, tax industry and labour and personal property, in order to liquidate it; but they may be removed, and if the burden should be heavy, it is likely they will be removed to other countries. But the landowners cannot remove their property. By increasing their number, you increase the number of those who must pay the debt; and what is still more important, you increase the number of those who have a direct and spe-

cial interest in preventing the accumulation of a debt. And, Sir, when I look at the history of our finances, and see how inconsiderately and imprudently our present debt has been contracted; and when I consider how many inducements, the members of this House have, to grant money, when they can leave to their successor the odious task of providing ways and means to raise it; and how likely it is, that our debt will be greatly augmented, I confess I am in favour of every reasonable method of multiplying checks against its increase.

In addition to these arguments in favour of the bill, I must refer to authority of no mean weight in its support. I have already shewn the sense of the government to be on our side in the practice of grants to the children of U. E. Loyalists. I shall now fortify it by the favourable opinion of another branch of the Legislature. Some years ago, Sir, the Legislative Council passed a bill exactly similar, in its principle, to the one on the table before you. It originated in that House, and came from a gentleman of the highest consideration in it. It was unfortunately lost in this House, by the casting vote of the Speaker. No one has ever suspected that honourable house of too great a leaning towards popular institutions, or of not being sufficiently zealous in support of aristocratic principles and institutions. I think the attempts, therefore, unfair which have been made, to raise a hue and cry against this measure, as an utterly subversive of our constitution. From such a charge I hope it has been vindicated by authority, as well as reason.

Nevertheless as an authority in favour of this bill, I must also notice the policy of the government of this Province of giving small grants of land to emigrants and of encouraging them to resort to this country and obtain such grants. At the same time we know large grants are uniformly and very properly refused, if not made more opposed to the project of building up a landed aristocracy in this Province. In this respect the tendency of the bill is trifling compared with this practice.

The influence of the bill in promoting the welfare of the country may be inferred from its effect in favour of morality. I confess that it is my wish to see property pretty equally divided in this Province, from a sincere conviction, that such a condition is most favourable of any to virtue and happiness. I would not, indeed, forbid the accumulation of property, but I would adopt such laws as have a gradual tendency, without interfering with the free acquisition or disposal of property, to counteract the approximation, which is always produced in society by other causes, towards an unequal division of it.

The present law is, in other respects, unfavourable to virtue and morality. It presents a temptation to roguery. The eldest son of an intemperate father cannot retain the property which the law gives him, without violating good conscience and natural affection.

There are cases, perhaps, where the heir, in consideration of the patrimony which he inherits, assumes the support of the family. The other children will feel, however, that they are dependant. They will look upon him with envy, and will be jealous and distrustful of his kindness; and, on the other hand, will perhaps be regarded by him as a burthen. I think no parent would wish to leave his children in such a condition.

It is an object of great importance, in my opinion, to have laws that correspond with the circumstances and feelings of the people, and that give general satisfaction and contentment. I am anxious, Sir, to procure for this Province such a code of laws, that we may be proud of them, and may be able, with truth and sincerity, to boast before the world, that we have the best laws, the most wise and just, and adapted to make us happy of any country on the globe. But it is notorious, that the law of primogeniture is generally odious in the Province. No one can wonder that it is so. Its principles are radically unjust. And it is opposed to the natural affections of the human heart, which constantly rise in rebellion against it. You cannot legislate a man into a block. No laws you can pass will make him hate his children; though they may have the misfortune to be democratically born after their aristocratic elder brother. Even the hon. and learned Atty. Gen. admits the general sentiment of the people to be in favor of this measure. He accounts for it, to be sure, on the ground of their ignorance of its operation and ultimate effect. Now I believe that the more thoroughly they understand it, and the more they see and reflect upon our present law, the more strongly they will be in favour of this bill. It might, indeed, be a delightful sight to the eyes of the honorable Attorney General, to behold a Provincial Lord going forth in a splendid equipage, and with a numerous retinue of proud and lazy and inverted menials, and to see 10 or 20 miles square of land enclosed with a lofty wall, as his Lordship's park, and filled with man traps and spring guns. It might gratify the aristocratic tendencies of the honorable and learned gentleman to have a snug Provincial sode of game laws, under which the poor Peleian should be liable to be sent to Botany Bay, if he had the audacity to kill a partridge or a hare; but I believe that when the people saw these effects of the law of Primogeniture, they would not admire it, any more than they do at present. The truth is, there are one or two circumstances, which have prevented this law's being so unpopular heretofore, as it is likely to be in future. One of these is the practice of the Government of giving a lot to each of the children of the U. E. Loyalists. This has defeated very generally the evils of the law. But this cause will soon cease, especially if the government continues to impose settlement duties and other burthens equal to the value of the land. There is another reason, peculiar to this country, why the law has not operated so grievously as it may be expected to do. Many persons are prevented from availing themselves of the law by the influence of public opinion. Many elder sons, who inherit their father's property, are induced, either by affection and conscience, or by the fear of public opinion, to divide the patrimony with their brothers and sisters.

I do not content, Sir, that the law of primogeniture ought to be repealed in England. I am not called upon to discuss that question; and I should need more information than I possess, before I would decide it. The adoption of such a measure there involves very different considerations from its adoption here. I shall notice some of the distinctions. In England there is a great amount of wealth, exempt from the operation of the law of primogeniture, invested in the funds, or embarked in commerce; for her merchants are Princes. In this agricultural country the property is chiefly real estate, it is, therefore, under the operation of that law.

England grows under a redundant and burthenous population. The law of primogeniture is thought by political economists to be a check in its increase; in this country, where we need labour, it is good policy to adopt the law of equal partition; for a division of property will promote marriages and a consequent increase of population.

In England there is a deep and settled veneration for the noble and opulent and ancient families, which constitute their aristocracy. It is the effect of early impressions and long cherished habits. Those families are associated with the most glorious events and achievements in their history, and their very names are regarded with reverence. But what kind of veneration is likely even to be felt for our Provincial aristocracy, which is associated with no more soul-stirring ideas than those of shrewd land speculations?

In England there are many situations under government, where the younger sons are provided for. I hope we shall never resemble the parent country in that respect, even if the law of primogeniture should continue in force.

It is said that the division of property, which this bill will have a tendency to produce, is prejudicial to the agricultural improvement of the country. It can easily be determined, whether this objection is well founded, by a reference to other countries. Is the land better cultivated in this Province, than in the United States, or in our sister colonies? We know very well that we have no cause for self-gratulation on this head. I will read on this subject the opinion of Mr. Humphreys, an eminent English lawyer, which I recollect to have quoted last year. It is an extract from the preface to the second edition of his work on real property. He says he has "left out the comparison between primogeniture and equal partition; because, since the former publication, he has perceived the civil code of the Netherlands, and has traversed the country, in almost every direction. The one establishes equal partition; the other exhibits a country cultivated like a garden, with a manure, thoroughly at its case." I protest, Sir, that I am unable to comprehend how the country would be better cultivated, if the eldest son inherited all his father's landed property, than if it descended to all the children equally. By the way, the King of the Netherlands and his nobility do not seem to find in the law of equal partition those democratic tendencies, which some of our sagacious and enlightened statesmen discern, although the former are enabled to judge not merely from theory, but also from actual experience.

The truth is, Mr. Chairman, the law of primogeniture is a relic of a barbarous age and of a system of military

despotism, that was as hostile to the improvement as to the liberties of man. It was imposed on England by the strong arm of a military conqueror, and the men of Kent, to this day, glory in their exemption from this badge of servitude and subjection, although, for want of such a provision as this bill contains, it is said that, in some extreme cases, the law of Gavelkind, which prevails in that county, has in the long lapse of several centuries, produced a minute and inconvenient subdivision of property. The law of primogeniture is evidently a part of the feudal system. In the rude and violent times, when it was established, such an iron despotism might have been necessary for the protection of society from anarchy; but it is inconsistent with the spirit of this age. Its fundamental maxims were directly opposed to the two principles of a free constitution. Under the feudal system every thing was derived from the lord, and was held under his pleasure, and for his benefit. For this reason the estate descended to the eldest son, who would be most likely to be able to render in return the military services, which were the consideration for it, to the lord. But the true principle of a free government is the very reverse of this maxim. It is, that every thing is derived from the people, and held for their benefit. For their benefit the King himself is clothed with majesty and power, which he derives from them by their common though tacit consent.

In those barbarous times the only power that existed was the power of the battle axe and the sword, the power of physical force. In such a state of things, the common safety seems to require a stern and unrelenting despotism like the feudal system. But, Sir, it is our good fortune to live in happier and more enlightened times, when reason and truth and public opinion are exerting a far greater power than mere brutal force can ever possess. Our institutions and laws should be adapted to this different condition of things. They should be reasonable and just; and such they must and will be, although the consequence may be the destruction occasionally of an antiquated principle, which is not suited to our wants and feelings, although it may be venerable in the eyes of some persons on account of its antiquity. We find accordingly a gradual departure in the Legislature of the parent country, from these ancient maxims and laws. An heir is not bound by the law of England to pay the debts of his ancestors, unless they were secured by judgment or by instruments under the ancestor's seal, expressly binding the heir. This is in the very spirit of the feudal system, and I cannot say that it is more unnatural or unreasonable or unjust, than the law of primogeniture. But the British Parliament did not think it so very important to build up a landed aristocracy in the colonies, as to continue here this immunity of lands from the payment of debts. They accordingly subjected them in the plantations, very justly, by an express enactment to a liability for all debts, which have modified the law in England in other respects, in order to accommodate it to the spirit of the age. When a man dies, owning lands, during the life of another who survives him, his estate even in England is divided like goods and chattles. Now, this is in fact an abolition, in such cases of the law of primogeniture, and an adoption of the very principle of this bill; for at common law, such an estate would descend to the heir at law, like other landed property, and this modification is the effect of an express purpose. By a still more modern innovation, which the British Parliament has urged upon the law of real property, the land of deceased widows are subjected to process from courts of equity for the payment of the debts. All these modifications have a tendency to reduce lands to an inglorious equality with goods and chattles, and to emancipate them from the unnatural rules of the feudal system.

This is the only one, I believe, of the five British North American Provinces, where the law of primogeniture prevails. And there is no disposition to adopt it in any of the other colonies, when they are enabled, by experience to judge of the practical effects of another system; but on the contrary, there is a strong repugnance to its introduction. There is a part of Lower Canada, where it has lately been introduced by the British Parliament, as their court of appeal have determined, and it gives great dissatisfaction. I will read to you the remarks of Mr. Peck, a lawyer and a member of the House of Assembly. He is speaking of the English mode of conveyance, and their laws of succession and primogeniture. He says, "The English law in these respects is repugnant to the feelings, the wishes, and the manners of that part of the country. Few of them understand it, and almost all desire to have nothing to do with it, more than with any species of aristocracy, which a few persons have been found to advocate, and to which the law of primogeniture inevitably led. They look upon the law of succession as not consistent with natural justice, all wish that the brothers and sisters of each family shall be equal in their rights of succession, and it is the desire of parents to provide equally for their children. In this country, we have no commissions in the army or navy, no government patronage to provide for younger sons." Such is the language which Mr. Peck is reported to have used in the House of Assembly. He is a representative from the Eastern township, and cannot be supposed to be at all under the influence of those national feelings, which, it may be said, attach the inhabitants of French origin to their own laws. I quoted last year the opinions of other Lower Canada Lawyers of established character, in favor of the law of that Province on this subject. These opinions were given before a committee of the British House of Commons, and are entitled to respect.

Why is it that we cannot have the law here? They enjoy it in other colonies, whose loyalty we will not dispute, and they are not trial attached to it. The people very generally desire to be equal, and if it were not for the fact that no man living would be so foolish and so presumptuous as to propose its repeal. It is not unconstitutional; it is not inconsistent with the principles of the British constitution. If it were, the British Parliament would not have left us at liberty to adopt it, but would have fixed the law of primogeniture as one of the principles of our constitution. But they did nothing of the kind, when they passed the act of constituting the Provincial Parliament, and defining its powers, although the principle of equal partition of intestate real estate was then incorporated in the law of the Province. In fact, the law of primogeniture would not this day have been in force here, if our own Legislature had not inadvertently as I suppose, introduced it by a general adoption of the laws of England.

I am not sanguine of the immediate success of this measure. It is opposed with great warmth by men of influence and talent. Some of them are exceedingly haughty and tenacious of their own opinions, and not accustomed or disposed to concede one jot or tittle of the sentiments or feelings of others. They will, of course, resist, with all their might. Under these circumstances, my success must depend on public opinion. Upon this account I am not sorry that the hon. and learned crown lawyers oppose it with all their eloquence and ingenuity, though, on other accounts, I wish these powerful auxiliaries were enlisted in its favour. They have provoked discussion which will be useful. I am persuaded it will confirm & strengthen the public opinion, which I know prevails in its favour, and which will finally force this measure not only through this house, but also through the other branch of the Legislature. For, Sir, it is not possible for a few men, however great they may be in their own estimation, long to resist the reasonable, & well ascertained wishes of the Community. Even the Grand Signior has to yield to public opinion. It is only because a full discussion of the subject, embracing, certainly on my part, little that is original or novel, and much that has been often repeated, will remove prejudices, and produce conviction in honest minds, and thus have an important influence upon public opinion, that I have made such a long speech, which has not exhausted your patience more than it has my strength.

**VALUABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE.**  
Lot near West of the Swan Inn, A two story BRICK HOUSE, 40 feet front by 28 deep; with two Cellar Kitchens, a Gate-way, and Well of water. The above described house will be finished, in the best style, by the first of May, for any gentleman who may purchase it. For particulars, apply to the subscriber on the premises.  
JOHN MILLS.  
York, Jan. 11, 1832.

**NOTICE TO JOURNEYMEN SADDLERS.**  
WANTED immediately, two Journeyman Saddlers or Harness Makers—those acquainted with both branches will have the preference; and none need apply, except those of steady habits.  
C. W. PAGE.  
Who has also on hand a few gross of notes and accounts, to exchange for ready money upon reasonable terms, if applied for immediately.  
C. W. P.  
York, U. C. Jan. 28th, 1832.

**LOOKING GLASSES, PRINTS &c.**  
(Newgate Street, North West from the Court House, nearly opposite Upper George Street.)  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Gilder, &c.  
Respectfully returns thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen of York, and its vicinity for the very liberal patronage with which he has been favoured since his commencement in business, and hopes by unremitting attention to business and a sincere desire to please, to merit a continuance of their generous support.  
He has constantly on hand Mahogany and Gilt frame Looking Glasses of various descriptions and sizes. A choice assortment of Dressing Glasses, Looking Glass plates, Glass for pictures, Clock faces, prints, &c. &c.  
York, Nov. 5th, 1831.  
103.4f

**JOHN MILLS begs leave to return**  
his sincere thanks, to the inhabitants of York and its vicinity for past favors, and informs them that he has removed to King-street, near the corner of Yonge-street, where he keeps constantly on hand, wholesale and retail, a general assortment of  
**HATS AND BONNETS,**  
of his own manufacture, and makes to order on the shortest notice. He also keeps on hand a variety of FUR CAPS.  
Hats and Bonnets cleaned and altered.  
N. B. The highest price given for all kind of Furs.  
York, Nov. 4th, 1831.  
103.4f

**Wholesale and Retail Store;**  
In the House lately occupied by Mr. Wm. Russell, on the corner of Yonge and Lot Streets,  
YORK.

## KING BARTON takes the liberty

of informing his friends and the public, that he has opened a Store in the above place. He has a large and well selected assortment of Cloths, Flannels, Blankets; Flannels, red, white, &c.; Bombazines; Bombazines; Lace; a variety of Winter Shawls; fine rich do., of different kinds; Shirts; Grey and Printed Calicoes; Magaric, Merinoes, Mariellous, Quills, Wholly Velvet, Gros de Naples; black and colored Ties; a large assortment of ready made Clothes; Hats, and Caps of all kinds, from 2 to 40s. Very fine Linen Shirts, made in the best style; Gumsy Frocks, Hosiery, Mitts, Woollen, Doe Skin, and Furs. Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, &c. &c.  
Having imported a great part of the above Goods, and purchased them in the lowest market, he doubts not but he will be able to sell on terms highly satisfactory to such as may call to purchase.  
17. No second price.  
Nov. 10th, 1831.  
104.4f

## NEW AND CHEAP GOODS.

**THE SUBSCRIBER** begs to acquaint his friends and the public, that he is now receiving an extensive assortment of Fall and Winter Goods; among which are nearly 100 pieces of wide and narrow Cloths, from 3 to 60s. York Currency, per yard; being, perhaps, the best assortment in this Market, and having been purchased at very reduced prices, will be sold extremely low: Ross and Whitney Blankets; Flannels, Serges, Baizes, Cambrils, Plaids; Brown and Bleached Cottons, Muslins, Checks; Cotton Yarn, from No. 5 to 15; Shawls, Gloves, Hosiery, &c. &c.  
Also—Teas, Sugars, Coffee, Indigo, Tobacco, Snuff, Sole and Upper Leather, Shoes and Boots, Iron, Steel, Nails, Glass, Crockery and Glass-ware; Buffalo Robes, Mackerel, Codfish, Medicines, &c. &c.  
The Fall supplies, together with the former stock, forms a general and very extensive assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, and Hardware, which will be sold Wholesale or Retail, on the most reasonable terms. The Cloths in particular are worthy of attention.  
R. PRENTISS.  
Hamilton, Nov. 1831.

N. B. Cash paid for Wheat, Rye, and Corn, during the Winter.  
106.4f

**NOTICE.**  
THE Subscriber is now receiving a large and well selected assortment of GOODS of the first quality, consisting of HARDWARE of every description.  
GROCERIES, DRY GOODS, &c.  
SINGLE, DOUBLE, AND COOKING STOVES WITH TINS.  
Also—A very large assortment of English, Swedes, and Three Rivers Bar Iron, of all sizes, Hoop Iron, Small Cable Chains, Anchors, Sheet Iron, Tin—Castings, Bake Pans, Pots, Sugar Kettles, Pot Aek Coolers, Tea Kettles, &c. &c. All of which will be sold unusually low for Cash.  
The public are requested to call and examine.  
PETER PATERSON,  
York, Market Square, Nov. 23rd, 1831.  
107.4f

**SELLING OFF,**  
AT AND BELOW PRIME COST.  
(King-Street, opposite the Episcopal Church.)  
RICHARDSON begs to inform the inhabitants of York and its vicinity, that he has commenced selling off the whole of his present stock of  
**DRY GOODS.**

At and below prime cost. He has just received an extensive assortment of WINTER GOODS, consisting of Superior West of England Broad and Narrow Cloths, Cassimeres, Fustians and Canadian Cloths, Merinoes, Blankets, Flannels, Stripes, Checks, Ginghams, Mole skins, Fustians, &c. &c.  
Those persons wishing to avail themselves of the present opportunity will find it their interest to make an early call.  
N. B. The attention of Country Store-keepers and Pedlars are particularly requested.  
York, Jan. 24, 1832.  
112.4f

**JAMES M. STRANGE is now**  
opening an extensive assortment of  
**DRY GOODS, HABERDASHERY, &c.**  
and an assortment of children's Beaver Hats & Bonnets, which he will sell at unusually low prices.  
York, King-Street, 7th Decr. 1831.  
108

**READY MADE CLOTHING,**  
Dry Goods, &c.  
WILLIAM LAWSON returns his sincere thanks to his friends and the public, for the very liberal patronage he has met with since his commencement in business, and informs them, that he has now on hand an extensive assortment of Ready made Clothing, all made up in his own Shop, and in the best style of workmanship; Also, Cloths, Vestings, Fustians, Bombazines, Norwich Crapes, Merinoes, Bombazines, Flannels, Blankets, Carpets, Calicoes, Cottons, Shawls, Handkerchiefs, Muslins, Lace, Ribbons; Gentlemen's Hats, a superior article direct from England; Ladies' Beaver, Leghorn, Straw, and Velvet Bonnets; small Wares, and a variety of other articles—all which he will sell at extremely low prices, at his Brick Store, South side King-Street, nearly opposite the Gaol.  
York, Decr. 19th, 1831.  
110.4f

**NEW SADDLERY AND HARNESS MANUFACTORY.**  
ALEXANDER DIXON, SADDLER, &c. most respectfully informs the Gentry of York, and Upper Canada, that from the liberal encouragement he has experienced, it has induced him to commence business in the above line in one of his new Houses, situated on the South side of King-Street, a few doors East of Yonge-Street. He hopes, by strict attention, and a well assorted Shop of the most fashionable Saddlery Goods imported (by himself) from Great Britain direct, to merit a share of public patronage.

He has just received an extensive assortment of English Leather, Saddle Trees, Bits and Bradoons, Snaffle Bids, Horse blankets, driving whips, Carriage and Gig harness mountings of the latest patterns, &c. &c. &c.  
N. B. Every description of cart and wagon harness will be particularly attended to, from which it is presumed, that every possible satisfaction will be given in this department of the business.  
York, Dec. 20th, 1831.  
110.4f

**LOOKING GLASSES, PRINTS &c.**  
(Newgate Street, North West from the Court House, nearly opposite Upper George Street.)  
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Gilder, &c.  
Respectfully returns thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen of York, and its vicinity for the very liberal patronage with which he has been favoured since his commencement in business, and hopes by unremitting attention to business and a sincere desire to please, to merit a continuance of their generous support.  
He has constantly on hand Mahogany and Gilt frame Looking Glasses of various descriptions and sizes. A choice assortment of Dressing Glasses, Looking Glass plates, Glass for pictures, Clock faces, prints, &c. &c.  
York, Nov. 5th, 1831.  
103.4f

**JOHN MILLS begs leave to return**  
his sincere thanks, to the inhabitants of York and its vicinity for past favors, and informs them that he has removed to King-street, near the corner of Yonge-street, where he keeps constantly on hand, wholesale and retail, a general assortment of  
**HATS AND BONNETS,**  
of his own manufacture, and makes to order on the shortest notice. He also keeps on hand a variety of FUR CAPS.  
Hats and Bonnets cleaned and altered.  
N. B. The highest price given for all kind of Furs.  
York, Nov. 4th, 1831.  
103.4f