

Mr. Van Koughnet moved that to much of the order of the day as relates to a Law Clerk, be discharged. Ordered.

Mr. Burwell obtained leave to bring in a Bill to appropriate a sum of money for improving the Public Roads in this Province—which was read.

Mr. Hatt moved for leave to bring in a Bill to grant a sum of money for erecting a Gaol and Court House in the District of Gore—which was lost.

Mr. Frazer moved for leave to bring in a Bill to appropriate a sum of money for purposes therein mentioned,—which was lost.

Thursday 12.

The Duty Bill being read a third time.

Mr. Robinson moved that it do now pass, and that it be entitled, "An Act to make further provision for regulating the Trade between this Province and the United States of America, by Land or Inland Navigation." Carried.

The Coft Bill being read a third time.

Mr. Durand moved that it do now pass, and that it be entitled, "An Act to regulate costs in certain cases in the Court of King's Bench." Carried.

The House went again into Committee on the Incorporated Militia.

Mr. Cameron reported the following Resolution:

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a conference be requested with the Hon. the Legislative Council, to take into consideration the propriety of presenting a joint Address of the two Houses of the Provincial Legislature of this Province, on the subject of granting Lands to the Flank Companies, Volunteer Corps, and Incorporated Militia, for their services during the late war with the U. States America." which was received and adopted.

Mr. Jones moved that Messrs. Burwell and Howard be a Committee to request a conference with the Hon. the Legislative Council, pursuant to the foregoing Resolution. Ordered.

Mr. Clench moved that from the ill state of health of some of the family of Peter Howard, Esq. Representative for the County of Leeds, that leave of absence be granted him for the remainder of this Session of Parliament. Granted.

Mr. Hatt moved for leave to bring in a Bill to appropriate a sum of money to erect Gaols and Court Houses in several Districts within this Province,—which was lost.

Mr. Jones obtained leave to bring in a Bill to remunerate certain persons therein mentioned—which was read.

Mr. Burwell obtained leave to bring in a Bill to provide for ascertaining the actual Population of this Province,—which was read.

Mr. Cotter moved that the petition of Ebenezer Washburn be now read.

Friday 13.

The Provisional Agreement Bill being read a third time.

Mr. Robinson moved that it do now pass, and that it be entitled, "An Act to ratify and confirm articles of Provisional Agreement entered into at Montreal on the 31st day of May 1817, between the Commissioners appointed by this Province to treat with the Commissioners of the Province of Lower Canada, on the Provisional Agreement relative to Duties and Drawbacks on Goods imported into Lower Canada; and also to repeal an Act passed in the 56th year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act to continue for a limited time, the Provisional Agreement entered into between this Province and Lower Canada." Carried.

The Insolvent Debtor's Bill being read a third time.

Mr. Hall moved that it do now pass, and that it be entitled, "An Act to extend the provisions of an Act passed in the 4th year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act for the relief of insolvent Debtors." Carried.

Mr. Durand moved that it be resolved that a Committee be appointed to draft an Address to His Honor the Administrator, praying that he will be pleased to cause to be laid before this House, a statement of the annual Grant received from Great Britain, and likewise the amount drawn out of the Army extraordinary during the year 1816; also a detailed account of the sum of £2000, credited to this Province in the year 1817, of Crown Revenue, arising from Duties, Fines, &c. applicable to the service of the Administration of the Government, and that Messrs. Van Koughnet and Jones be a committee to draft the same.

Mr. Jones moved that the question be not put, and that the House do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the committee on Public Accounts. Carried.

Mr. Burwell reported the following Resolution.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of

his committee that an humble Address be presented to His Honor the Administrator, praying him to lay before this House, a detailed account of the sum of £2000, credited to this Province in the year 1817, of Crown Revenue, arising from Duties and Fines, and applicable to the support of the Civil Administration of the Government of this Province.

The Heir and Devisee Bill being read a third time.

Mr. McNabb moved that it do now pass, and that it be entitled, "An Act to repeal part of and amend the laws now in force, for affording relief to those persons who may be entitled to claim lands in this Province, as Heirs or Devisees of the Possessors of the Crown, in cases where no Patent hath issued for such lands, and further to extend the benefit of the said Laws." Carried.

Mr. Burwell moved that Isaac Frazer, Esq. one of the Members representing the Incorporated counties of Lenox and Addington, have leave of absence for the remainder of this Session. Granted.

Mr. Cotter moved for leave to bring in a Bill founded on the petition of Ebenezer Washburn Esq. Granted and the Bill read.

Mr. Van Koughnet moved for leave to bring in a Bill to make good a sum of money issued and advanced by His Honor Samuel Smith, Esq. Administrator, in pursuance of an Address during the present Session. Granted.

Mr. Durand moved for leave to bring in a Bill to alter and amend the laws now in force for granting a Salary to the Adjutant General of Militia—which was lost.

Mr. Robinson moved for leave to bring up the petition of John Small, Esquire.

Saturday 14.

Mr. Durand moved that the House do now go into Committee to take into consideration the state of the Province,—which was carried.

Mr. McCormick reported progress, & obtained leave to sit again on Monday.

Mr. Nelie moved for leave to bring in a Bill, granting to His Majesty a sum of money to defray the expenses of the civil Administration of the Government of this Province.

Mr. Robinson gave notice, that he will, on Monday next, move that the House do go into Committee to take into consideration the Administrator's message relative to the Penetanguishene Road.

Mr. Robinson gave notice, that he will, on Monday next move for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the Imposts of Tonnage and Light House Duties throughout this Province.

From the Niagara Spectator.

To, Thomas Dickson, Thomas Butler, James Muirhead, Robert Kerr, Esquires, and the Rev. Robert Addison, Magistrates of the Township of Niagara.

Gentlemen, I am this day in humour to expose my friends; and, here above I have picked up, in a bunch, five of their names, to public notice. "In what have we offended?" say you, standing in amazement. "Is the man mad?"—Perfectly reasonable, Gentlemen,—quite cool I assure you.

In the NIGARA SPECTATOR of the 13th November last, you recommended attention to my Address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada. I was grateful for your attention to the public weal: I was willing to make over to one of you, in the name of all the Magistrates of the District, the charge of the Statistical Reports of the Province: I redoubled my efforts, in the public cause, having lightened myself of personal responsibility. Your recommendation was of essential service: it encouraged others, not only to recommend, but to act. What became of your own energy and zeal? They have yet produced me nothing. I have, indeed, seen a Report of the Township of Niagara, but it had neither head nor tail; and, is now in York, a very proper hiding place for such a weakling—such a *bibus naturæ*.

The value of the Report is little, compared to the consequence of your conduct towards me, and the cause, in which I have been stimulated to persevere, by the prompt assistance of many hundreds of people, and the most flattering testimonials of their confidence in my endeavors to promote the welfare of Canada.

At this moment I most heartily free you from blame as individuals. I believe you have meant me no dishonor: I believe that indolence or procrastination may be in fault; but, let me ask what might be said in England were I to go home, under present appearances and without explanation?

It is not only notorious, that several of the leading men of this place have opposed my designs, (for what reason they know best) but the public prints,

here, have been resorted to by anonymous libellers, to excite low suspicions and misdirect popular feeling, in a degree, which, perhaps, on such occasion ever before called for.

Were I to go home without public explanation, it might be asked of me, "what was the reason that the Magistrate, who was the first to espouse your cause, withdrew, or, became slack in their endeavors? surely?" it might be said, "there must have been something very wrong on his part, who could not obtain, but by forced or underhand means, a Report of the very Township in which were resident most of his relations and friends." Gentlemen, calmly consider this, and come forward, with explanation. In the Township in which I am best known I challenge you to accuse my conduct, either as a private or public character—either here, or, at home.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I believe the inhabitants of Upper Canada are not naturally inclined to take part in political discussions, but the addresses of Mr. Gourlay have lately awakened their attention, and elicited their sentiments upon an interesting subject. I have, as yet, refrained from publicly expressing what my ideas are with regard to this gentleman's proceedings, for I preferred being guided in my opinion of their propriety, by the consequences resulting from them, rather than by the impressions they gave birth to at the moment. Though hitherto a silent, I have all along been an attentive observer of Mr. G's measures. I believe I am unprejudiced, for I feel convinced, that the opposition he meets with originates partly from the effects which the wilful misrepresentations of his enemies have upon the public mind, and partly from the ignorance which prevails concerning his object and motives. The present is an interesting crisis. It has displayed, in a strong light, several traits of character existing among the people of Canada, which before lay concealed, because no circumstances tended to elicit them. Future reformers may now receive a lesson, the remembrance of which will serve to guide them in the choice and application of their measures, and teach them that political opposition is often the result of individual pride and envy, than of a patriotic desire for national good—Mr. G's first address, from the novelty of its object, naturally excited much attention, and men of liberal minds, in their desire for its accomplishment, forgot that it was not very conciliatory. This principle defect, and most offensive thing in Mr. G's address, was the tone of superiority which characterized it. He too often told the people of Canada, that they were excelled by those of Britain. This was particularly injudicious, for a kind of false pride prevails among the inhabitants of this country, and makes them impatient of censure, and inclines them to believe that he who mentions their deficiency, insults their dignity. His address tended rather to provoke than conciliate the minds of the people. He did not attempt to seduce and flatter them into an acquiescence in his measures, but rather endeavoured to force it by an allusion to their present deficiencies, and the causes which had retarded the improvement of the province. All this however ought to have been forgotten, when the importance of his object was considered, and his capability of accomplishing it duly estimated.—Notwithstanding the opposition Mr. G. met with, his success was very flattering. Reports poured in from all quarters, and it was the general opinion that he had fully succeeded in his plans, when his second address again roused the public attention. Its object was to show that all his exertions would be in vain, unless an alteration, and improvement in the political management of the country, immediately took place.—Whether or not the information Mr. G. received in the course of his travels, and collected from the reports, rendered such a declaration eligible and necessary, can be judged of by himself only, as the sources of his knowledge have not been laid before the public. I do not pretend to give any opinion about the matter, for I feel myself quite unqualified to do so. I mean to make my remarks upon the consequences of his measures—not upon their propriety. The effect which a political discussion would have upon the people of Canada was not known until after the publication of Mr. G's address, for the inhabitants of this country, partly from inclination, and partly from other circumstances, have hitherto interfered little in the affairs of government. The members of parliament, after they are elected, never attempt to ascertain the opinion of their constituents upon any subject brought under discussion. And

they have a good reason for this. The majority of voters are not qualified to judge of the propriety of any proposed measure, and thus they naturally lose all interest in, what they have no influence over. In a newly peopled, and thinly inhabited country, the form and purity of government are comparatively of little importance, for society is then in such a state of simplicity, and disconnection, that it is seldom necessary to enforce much subordination among its members. A man is seldom much interested in the political affairs of his country until they begin to affect him individually, and this does not happen, unless the population is large, and society is organized, and divided into classes. The great object of administration, is to preserve the relations which ought to subsist between the different orders of society, and to prevent classes, or single individuals, from making encroachments upon the rights, or property of each other.—It is not difficult to discover why the Canadians are so indifferent about the political state of their country. They enjoy so much independence, and suffer so few national grievances and taxation, that they naturally think their condition cannot be better, and therefore feel no inclination to interfere with their governors, as long as the latter do not interfere with them. But if their properties were burdened, and their liberties abridged by the legislature, they would not long remain in their present contented state, nor be so indifferent about the measures pursued by their government. It must be evident, that in a newly settled country, the happiness of the people is not a certain proof of the purity and excellence of the administration, for the inhabitants, as I have already mentioned, are not much exposed to its effects. Therefore the principal argument which has been used against Mr. G's proceedings is of no weight whatever. His opponents tell him, that the inhabitants of Canada are in a state of perfect contentment and happiness. This, as far as I am able to judge, is truly the case, but it is the natural consequence of the blessings and advantages which this country so profusely bestows on those who settle in it. There is no other cause which has contributed to deter the people of Canada from engaging in politics. This country has drawn its population from so many different nations, that disaffection to the government is more likely to occur in individuals than if they were natural born subjects. Nothing provokes or insults a man who is not a natural born subject more, than being suspected of disaffection. The possibility of disaffection is so great, that the slightest murmur against government would almost be considered as a breach of allegiance. Those who are not natural born subjects, therefore, feel unwilling to express their disapprobation of any measures pursued by government, lest they should be regarded as incendiaries, and promoters of rebellion. They have not had sufficient experience in politics to know, that a man may be firmly, and ardently attached to that government which he accuses of defects and inconsistencies.

These causes have all not a little contributed to repress political enquiry, and it is not surprising that the people of Canada should be startled by Mr. G's second address. But they have not received it with the liberality they ought to have shown. They seem more offended with his presumption, than interested in ascertaining the correctness of the charges which he lays against their government. Whatever they may say, I am convinced that all this originates from false pride. They are unwilling to acknowledge that he has discovered abuses, of the existence of which they were not previously aware. As an objection to the truth of what Mr. G. states in his address, I hear many people urge the following query—"why was not all this found out before?" But this is no argument whatever against the thing, and is the precise exclamation often uttered by foolish and ignorant people after a discovery of any kind has been made. They say "It is astonishing that this was not found out before." But the people of Canada may feel satisfied that their being behind-hand with Mr. G. in political knowledge, neither shows a want of ability, or discernment, but proceeds entirely from the peculiar condition of society, which, as I have already remarked, yields no excitement to political enquiries.

Every impartial observer must acknowledge that Mr. G. has been too precipitate in his measures. He appears to possess more genius than judgment. He has too much enthusiasm for a reformer. The advantage or bad tendency of any line of conduct darts into his mind so rapidly that while he is pursuing it, other people are hesitating about its propriety; and his mode

of proceeding shows, that he has less knowledge of the character of the people of Canada than might have been expected. Though the inhabitants of this country have some reason to be irritated at Mr. G. they ought to treat him with more liberality. He has been called an incendiary, accused of laxity of political principle, and some have hinted that his proceedings are dictated by disappointed ambition. As far as I can judge none of these charges are correct. I am convinced that his views are liberal and extensive; but he has been hurried on by natural precipitation to pursue a line of conduct injudiciously bold. He has leaped when he should have walked, but let his opponents remember, that there are scarcely any limits to political discussion in Great Britain. Those individuals who wish to repress Mr. G's measures give them additional consequence by violently opposing them. He would have been much less formidable and important had he been less regarded. I confess I am rather surprised at the tumult he has excited. In Britain he might publish an address similar to his last once a week, for several months together, and perhaps not receive a single reply to it. The people there are so accustomed to hear their government abused that they pay no attention to what a single individual says. There would not be such a thing as politics if there was no opposition. When the celebrated Dr. Johnson wrote pamphlets, he always wished that they might be answered, for observes he, "The ball has no effect unless it rebounds." I was not an enemy to the publication of Mr. G's second address, (notwithstanding my opinion that the style was too bold, and the sentiments rather exceptionable,) for I thought it could not be offensive to government, unless the statements it contained were true. It is not a principle of the British government to repress political discussion. It is a knowledge of public affairs, and a liberal enquiry into them, that gives a people a confidence in their rulers, and makes them cautiously, and hesitatingly believe any aspersions thrown out against their administration.

It is not my intention to write a defence of Mr. G. but I cannot avoid remarking, that some of his opponents have raised very ill-founded objections to his capability of accomplishing what he had undertaken. They say that his knowledge of the country cannot be extensive from his short residence in it. But I am convinced that his opportunities of obtaining information have perhaps exceeded those of any person now in the Province. If he has made a bad and dangerous use of that knowledge, no one can lament it more than I do. Mr. G. is called a stranger and a wanderer, and it is asked why he intermeddles with the affairs of a foreign country. But Upper Canada is a part of the British empire. It enjoys the same government and privileges as its parent nation. It is in a great degree peopled by British subjects, and their descendants. It uses the same language, exhibits the same manners, and is defended by the same blood and treasure. Surely then a British subject cannot with propriety be styled a foreigner by the inhabitants of this country. I am a native of Britain—yet I feel nearly as much interest in Canada and its inhabitants as I do for my parent land. I am not so national as to exclude from my sympathies every part of the world but that in which I was born; and were I a political character, I should think myself, if not equally qualified, at least as much entitled, to give my opinion upon the administration of Canada, as upon that of Britain—every feeling of nationality should be banished when political subjects are under discussion, for it alone gives rise to many of the petty cavils, and malicious insinuations which the contending parties often throw out against each other. I do not allude in particular to the dispute concerning Mr. G. with which the newspapers have lately been filled; though I must acknowledge the controversy has now fallen to a level, not very creditable to either party.—It is to use Mr. G's words, "dull, dirty, and disgusting;" and instead of producing national good, tends powerfully to excite individual animosity. I do not feel attached to either side of the question—I am happy to say, that I am too ignorant to form an opinion upon the correctness of the charges Mr. G. brings against the administration. I have made no enquiries concerning the government since I came to Canada, and therefore know nothing of the abuses which are said to exist in it.—I detest politics, and the more influence I have over them, I should feel the less inclined to use it: I would exclaim in the words of Hamlet,

The time are out of joint, Oh cursed spite, That I was ever born to set them right.