

means removed the evil; and a system of patronage and favoritism, in the disposal of the Crown lands, still exists, altogether destructive of moral rectitude, and virtuous feeling, in the management of public affairs. Corruption, indeed, has reached such a height in this Province, that it is thought no other part of the British Empire witnesses the like: and it is vain to look for improvement till a radical change is effected. It matters not what characters fill situations of public trust at present:—all sink beneath the dignity of men—become vitiated and weak, as soon as they are placed within the vortex of destruction.—Confusion on confusion has grown out of this unhappy system; and the very lands of the Crown, the giving away of which has created such mischief and iniquity, have ultimately come to little value from abuse. The poor subjects of His Majesty, driven from home by distresses to whom portions of land are granted, can now find in the grant no benefit; and loyalists of the United Empire—the descendants of those who sacrificed their all in America, in behalf of British rule—men whose names were ordered on record for their virtuous adherence to your Royal Father;—the descendants of these men find, now, no favour in their destined rewards: nay, these rewards, when granted, have, in many cases, been rendered worse than nothing; for the legal rights in the enjoyment of them have been held at naught: their land has been rendered unsaleable, and, in some cases, only a source of distraction and care.

Under this system of internal management, and weakened from other evil influences, Upper Canada now pines in comparative decay: discontent and poverty are experienced in a land supremely blessed with the gifts of nature: dread of arbitrary power wars, here, against the free exercise of reason and manly sentiment: laws have been feracide: legislators have come into derision; and contempt from the mother country seems fast gathering strength to disunite the people of Canada from their friends at home.

The immediate interference of your Royal Highness might do much to check existing evils; and might wholly remove those which spring from the system of patronage and favoritism, in the land granting department. Other evils however greatly retard the prosperity of Upper Canada—evils which have their root in the original constitution of the Province, and these can only be removed by the interference of the British Parliament, now most imperiously required.

Deeply penetrated with these sentiments, and most seriously inclined to have such needful changes speedily effected, the loyal subjects of Britain, dwelling in Upper Canada, now take the extraordinary step of sending home Commissioners to bear this to the Throne, and humbly entreat your Royal Highness to give ear to the details which it will be in their power to relate: above all, that your Royal Highness would, immediately, send out to this Province a COMMISSION, consisting of discreet and wise men—men of business and ta-

lent, who shall be above every influence here; and who may be instructed to make enquiry into all the sources of evil.

N. B. Should any person incline to draw out an ADDRESS, either by affixing from the above, it is requested that a copy be directed to "Mr. John Ross, Niagara," (for the "Strict Committee.") and it is also requested that Reports of Township meetings, stating what persons are appointed to act as Representatives, Clerks, and Committee Men, be forwarded to the same, with all convenient speed, immediately after such meetings are held.

St. Catharines, 4th May 1818. This day Representatives (and Clerks,) chosen by the Inhabitants of the several Townships of Niagara District, for the purpose of petitioning the Prince Regent, on the general state of public affairs now existing in the Province of Upper Canada, met here.

- Robert Hamilton, Esquire, representing the Township of Niagara.
- Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Esq. J. P. do. Grantham.
- John Clark, Esq. J. P. do. Louth.
- Dr. Cyrus Sumner, do. Clinton.
- Captain Henry Hixon, do. Griefsby
- Major Wm. Robertson, do. Caistor and Cauboy.
- Mr. John Kennedy, do. Gainsborough.
- Mr. John Henderson, do. Pelham.
- George Keefer, Esq. J. P. do. Throld.
- Dr. John J. Lefferty, do. Stamford.
- James Cummings, Esq. J. P. do. Willoughby.
- John Baxter, Esq. do. Bertie.
- Mr. Joseph Current, do. Crowland.
- Mr. Benjamin Horton, do. Humberstone, and Lake side of Wainfleet.
- David Thompson, Esq. do. Wainfleet.

John Clark, Esq. being unanimously called to the Chair—the business of the day commenced by Mr. Clark's reading over Mr. Gourlay's Address to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, dated 2d April, 1818. The recommendations and principles contained in the address, were declared to be those now generally approved of, and as constituting the basis of the present proceedings. It was then moved and carried, that Mr. Goulay should be called to the Chair, and invited to assist in the business of the day.

George Adams, Esq. J. P. was elected to be Treasurer for this District, and being sent for, accepted the office.—Wm. J. Kerr, Esq. was elected Secretary; and these gentlemen were desired to retire with Township Clerks, to arrange accounts and commence a regular journal of transactions. It was then moved, that a Draft of a Petition previously prepared, should be read, which being done, its general principles were approved of, and it was agreed further that consideration, as to its style, &c. be referred to a committee of four—*Moved, and unanimously carried*, that as far as the Committee are sufficiently satisfied with the wording of the Petition, they order it to be Printed, with a view to its laying before the public one month and affording an opportunity for amendment, that finally it may be drawn out as to give the greatest possible degree of satisfaction to the people of the District—*Moved, and unanimously carried*, that the same committee do immediately publish throughout the Province, the whole proceedings of the people of this District of Niagara, up to this time; and take all necessary steps towards promoting the objects in view.

Moved, and unanimously carried, that the gentlemen of the Committee advertise, Saturday, 6th June, at 2 o'clock afternoon, as a proper time for the people of other Districts, to hold Township Meetings throughout the Province, at all places where township Meetings are generally held—that Saturday, the 13th of the same month, be advertised for the meetings of Township Representatives at the Head Town of their respective Districts, there to choose District Representatives, to assemble in the Provincial Convention. *Moved, and unanimously carried*, that Monday, 6th July next, be advertised as the day of meeting at York, of the Provincial Convention, there to appoint a Commission to proceed to England, with the Petitions to the Prince Regent, and hold conference, generally, on all matters then requiring attention. *Moved, and unanimously carried*, that it is proper for each District, to send to the Provincial Convention, Representatives in like number and proportion as they send members to Parliament.—*Moved, and unanimously carried*, that it be recommended that

the District Representatives for the Western, London, Gore and Niagara Districts, do meet together, at Ancaster, on Friday, 3d July—there to carry one or two days to consult and order with regard to any thing in these Districts that may then be discovered to be neglected.—Also that the District Representatives for Otonoway, the Eastern, Johnstown and Midland Districts, do meet for the like purpose, on Wednesday the 1st of July, at Ernest Town.

The Meeting proceeded to choose Representatives for Niagara District, when Robert Hamilton, Esq. Dr. Cyrus Sumner, John Clark, Esq. J. P. and Major Wm. Robertson, were duly elected.—It was then moved and carried, that these Gentlemen constitute the committee above mentioned.

One of the Representatives requesting to be allowed to read a paper to the Meeting, the request was granted. The paper regarded certain partial proceedings in Courts of Justice, and attributed the same to the present corrupt state of public affairs. The gentleman wished the Meeting to take the same into consideration; but the proposal was lost, this being declared not a meeting of deliberation as to private or particular grievances—but for the pure purpose of Petitioning the Prince Regent generally, and the state of the Province. It was admitted that this, or other papers respecting public grievances, might be given to District Representatives, sealed up, and directed to be put into the hands of the commissioners, that they may make what use they please of the same, for the general good of the Province. *Moved, and unanimously agreed*, that the thanks of the meeting be given to John Clark, Esq. for his impartial conduct in the Chair.

The meeting then adjourned till Monday, 8th June, at St. Catharines, when the Petition will be finally adopted, and measures taken for its signature in the several Townships of this District.

JOHN CLARK, Chairman.
WM. J. KERR, Secretary.

From the Montreal Gazette.

MR. BROWN, The second communication in your last number, relative to the proceedings of the late Court of King's Bench, appear to have been copied from the Herald of the 14th instant, with intermediate remarks, in italics, by an advocate of the party who procured the first insidious and highly coloured statement of the proceedings of the late Court of Oyer and Terminer to be inserted in the Herald of the week before. The writer of those remarks is very cautious upon what topic he provokes discussion, well knowing the inward rottenness of his cause, however guilt and varnished over it may be to delude the eyes of the multitude. But in order that he may be rendered still more careful by the conviction that any attempt to impose on the public, by falsehood, by insinuation, by suppression of truth, or by gifts, will be exposed, it is very confidently anticipated that, the gauntlet once thrown down, the most triumphant victory will be obtained by any Advocate of the North West Company, however inferior his talents, for *magna est veritas et prevalebit*.

His first shaft is aimed against the Grand Jury of the Court of King's Bench, and though he ought to be aware that comparisons are odious, he incautiously places this Jury in opposition to that of the Court of Oyer and Terminer. Without meaning to disparage the latter, any person acquainted with the district of Montreal, and who may have an opportunity of comparing the two lists, will see at once on which side the collective preponderance of intelligence, ability and property lies. It is falsely stated that there were on the Grand Jury of the Court of King's Bench several partners of the North West Company; there were only two. The word several can never be applied to the dual number but on the other hand gives an impression of five or six; so much for his arithmetical accuracy.

Now, according to the trite but appropriate adage, he measures his corn by his own bushel; and because there were on that Jury, both partners of and persons connected in pecuniary interest with, the North West Company, it follows by insinuation that they must be perjured, may perjure, and determined to find bill *per fas aut nefas* against the adherents of their commercial rivals. Who the persons are who it is asserted were connected in pecuniary interest with the North West Company, it may be indecorous to enquire; but the writer of the remarks, suppressing the truth, and like an equivocating witness omitting to tell the whole truth, neither states the fact that the partners of the North West Company, who were on the Jury invariably abstained from giving any opinion or vote on any of the bills of indictment which it was supposed were connected

with the interests of that association;—nor that of their being likewise on that Jury, persons connected in pecuniary interest with the Earl of Selkirk; and in particular his Lordships principal mercantile agent here, a gentleman indeed, whose honorable integrity is only to be equalled by the soundness of his judgment.

Although such things as packed Juries have been heard of, it is by no means to be imagined that such has been the case in either of the late Courts here; but it may be pertinent to remark, that a far less scope for the possibility of a packed Jury must exist, where the Grand Jury are formed of those respectable persons of the district, who generally in regular rotation perform their functions on the semestral return of the Court of King's Bench, before which all crimes are indiscriminately brought, than when selected for a special, unusual and unexpected Court of Oyer and Terminer, ordered to be held in consequence of the specific petition of adherents of the Earl of Selkirk who were under accusation.

Fearing to take up too much space in your columns, and anxious to afford some room in them for further lucubrations of this advocate of the party, which no doubt will appear cheek by jowl with this communication, and than which, scarcely any thing, but his utter silence could be more desirable, the observations that occur upon the other paragraphs in italics, will be deferred till your next number.

FOR THE KINGSTON GAZETTE.

A SKETCH OF THE BAY OF QUINTE.

Let a letter from a Passenger on board the Bay and River Steam Boat.

DEAR SIR, I have taken a trip, in the Steam Boat, from Kingston to the Carrying Place; and, I assure you, it has raised my opinion of the value of the Bay of Quinte to the commercial and agricultural interests of the country. It is the finest sheet of inland water I ever saw; and is surrounded by Townships of fertile land, already settled and productive, but capable of being rendered much more so by additional cultivation.

This route of the Steam-Boat is 88 miles, containing the following intermediate points of distance, as estimated, but not actually measured;

- Ernest Town, miles, do. 16—16
- Adolphustown, 14—30
- VnAlstine's Mill & Ferry, 3—33
- Hallowell, 5—38
- Barker's & Wessel's Ferry, 7—45
- Through the Long Reach, 7—52
- Davenport's Ferry, 2—54
- Solmes's Store, 6—60
- Bellville, 12—72
- River Trent, 12—84
- Carrying Place, 4—88

I had no means of ascertaining, with mathematical precision, the points of compass of the different parts of the Bay; but from such observations as I was able to make, without the assistance of any instrument, I believe them to be nearly as follows:

From Kingston to the entrance into the Bay of Quinte, S. W. by W.;—thence to VnAlstine's, W. by S.;—thence to Hallowell, S. W. by S.;—thence to Conger's Mill, N. E.; thence to the foot of the Long reach, N. E. by N.; the Long reach N. by E.; thence to Bellville, nearly W.; thence to the River Trent, one or two points S. of W.; thence to the Carrying Place, S. S. W. This sketch, although not very correct, may give you a general idea of the courses of our Steam Boat route.

At Kingston, Ernest Town is spoken of, as being "up the Bay of Quinte"; but the phrase is improper. The water between Ernest Town and Amherst Island is not a part of the Bay of Quinte, nor can it with propriety be styled a Bay. It comes within the geographical definition of a Sound, communicating with the lake by an outlet at each end of the island, called the Lower and Upper Gap. Amherst Island being about 12 miles long, the sound is of the same length, and ought to be named Amherst Island Sound.

The island stretching thus in front of Ernest Town, breaks the winds and wells of the lake, and shelters the harbor. The water of the Sound is of course tolerably smooth; but the lake winds come in through the Gaps, and sometimes make the water at those points quite rough, particularly against the lower Gap. The distance however, is short; and this is the only place in the whole route of the Bay and River Steam Boat, where it is exposed to any roughness of water.

Through the Gaps, the wind blows down the lake as much at least as 4ths of the sea; and the breeze is usually, with considerable regularity, from eight or nine o'clock in the morning, until past the middle of the afternoon,

and lulls away in the evening, as the daily breeze does on the shore of the ocean, with this difference, that the lake breeze does not shift at night, & alternately blow off and on, like the sea and land breezes.

Nearly opposite to the upper gap, is the entrance into the Bay of Quinte, between Fredericksburg and Marysburg point. The general width of the Bay varies from one to two miles.—

Between Ox point in Thurlow and Mississaga point in Ameliasburg, & also between Maybee's point in Sophiasburg and an opposite point in the Indian land, the Bay is less than a mile wide. In front of Hallowell there is a triangular opening, called Hallowell Bay, of the extent of three or four miles. East of Bellville, the bay expands to the breadth of five miles.—This expansion is vulgarly termed the Big Bay, the head of which is perhaps four and its foot ten miles from Bellville. Through the middle of the big bay, the water is shallow, with a channel of sufficient depth on each side. On its southern border there is a marshy inlet, named Muskoota Bay, said to be the limit between Ameliasburg and Sophiasburg. On the East side of the Long Reach is the entrance of Hay Bay, which sets up, in an Easterly direction, through the township of Adolphustown, and nearly through Fredericksburg. It derived its name from the adjoining meadows, which produce an abundance of hay. It appears too shallow to be navigated, except by small boats. At the head of the Long Reach is Mohawk bay, so named from its adjacency to the Mohawk Indian village. It is the mouth of the Appanee River, coming in from the N. E. Cartwright's mills, reputed to be the best in the Province, are five miles up the river, where there is a bridge and a small village around it. The road from Kingston to York passes here.—The water in this river rises and falls, from 9 to 11 inches, several times a day, with such a degree of regularity, that the boat-men calculate upon the tides to facilitate their passage to and from the Mills. I state this fact, not from my own observation, but upon the authority of several respectable persons who have observed it. The Appanee tides, indeed, have been a subject of considerable speculation; but their cause has not yet been satisfactorily explained.

Near the head of the Bay of Quinte the River Trent, falling in from the N. introduces the waters of the Rice Lake. On this river there are a number of valuable mills; and large quantities of lumber are brought down every year to market. At the mouth of the River there is a ferry of about half a mile, on the route from Kingston to York, by way of Appanee and Bellville. The road to York, by way of Hallowell passes by the Carrying Place and unites with the other in Crumme. There ought to be a Stage running from the Carrying Place or the River Trent, to York.

Myers's creek empties into the Bay near the western limit of Thurlow. There are valuable settlements eight or nine miles up the Creek, principally on the east side. At the mouth of it is the Town of Bellville, a port of entry, and a place of considerable business. Its site is unfortunately too low to appear to advantage, and I should apprehend some danger of inundation from the Creek in the Spring floods.

Jones's Creek is three miles west of Bellville, in the Township of Sidney.

There are a number of islands in the Bay. In front of the Carrying Place there is one, called Mississaga island, formerly occupied by the Indians of that tribe, but now overgrown with bushes. Cruger's island, two miles east of the River Trent, contains several acres of level ground, about twenty feet above the water. It is a smooth handsome green. Near the southern limit of Big Bay, there is a small island, known by the name of Ship island, with a single tree on it, a tall elm, which serves as a guide to boatmen passing up and down the Bay. The largest island in the whole Bay is John's island, by the northeastern angle of Sophiasburg, at the head of the Long Reach, and nearly opposite to the house of Capt. John, one of the proprietors of the Indian Village, who claimed this island, and left his name attached to it. When the water is high, boats pass between the island and Sophiasburg shore, and thereby save two or three miles. I observed several other islands, but did not note their names.

The townships, along which the Steam Boat passes, in its route, were originally designated by numbers, before they had appropriate names. This numerical designation began with the township of Kingston; which was called First Town, and extended through the townships on the lake shore, up to Ameliasburg, which was Seventh Town, then turned and proceeded through the front range of townships on the north