

point, of rightful application.

Ques. You do not then dispute the right to petition?

Ans. No, it is an undoubted right, inherently fixed in our Constitution by the Bill of Rights, and is one of the most valuable jewels, which the wise legislators of a great nation, ever bestowed, for the peaceable support, of a people's privileges. But its value is often diminished, and its beauty tarnished, by rotten disaffection, sheltering itself under its lustre.

Ques. Do you think there is any appearance of disaffection, in the proceedings set on foot and conducted under the influence of Mr. Gourlay?

Ans. Disaffection is in the ground work, but I hope, that the loyal people of this Province, that are now favorable to his plans, will withdraw, when they discover the delusion.

Ques. Have you any well founded reasons, on which you can ground such an opinion?

Ans. Yes, founded on facts.

Ques. State them.

Ans. Whatever is the pretext, meetings, called, and held, to devise ways and means, are unlawful; and, on the suppression of such meetings, the security of Government, against disaffected outrage, has often been proved to depend. The right of meeting publicly to petition, does not extend, beyond the purpose of signing. As a proof in support of the legality of the meetings, in this Province, Mr. Gourlay states, that, "the Parliament of Britain never attempted to suppress even the Spa-fields meetings, which excited in the minds of some, the greatest alarm," and, that he (Mr. Gourlay) "was in the house of Commons, when Lord Folkestone presented a petition from one of these meetings, on the evening of the very day on which it was held." That the meeting in Spa-fields, as stated by Mr. Gourlay, was legally called, his own words are proof: for he declares, that the petition was presented on the same evening, and that is a confirmation, that it was called for no purpose but that of signing, which constitutes its legality.

Ques. You make a distinction between publicly meeting under the pretext of devising a plan to petition, and of only meeting to sign a petition?

Ans. The law makes that distinction, but, I now recollect, that I have not pointedly replied to the question respecting disaffection. That Mr. Gourlay's disaffected conduct, is a demonstrable proof, for his proceedings are in opposition to, and he forcibly exclaims against, the government. But more of this, in its more proper place. My object here, is, to prove, by what established rules the right to petition is justifiable in law.

Ques. Is there no legal means, by which the people can be informed, that it is necessary to petition for a redress of grievances, and by which, those grievances can be stated.

Ans. Yes, the public prints, or by hand bills.

Ques. Then you aver, that it is lawful to publish, through the press, a detailed view of an existing evil, and also to point out the necessity of petitioning, to have the grievance redressed?

Ans. The law supports the measure, and protects from harm such proceedings, and in that we have one of the most valuable privileges, that we enjoy, through the liberty of the press, but the purity of that privilege is often tarnished, by unprincipled licentiousness.

Ques. What is the general mode of proceeding, in preparing a petition in England?

Ans. There are two modes. The most general mode, is that of addressing the people through the News-Papers, and notifying them through the same medium, that parchments will be ready for signing, at a specified place and time. The other mode, is that of persons going from door to door soliciting signatures. No obstacle has ever been thrown in the way of these two modes, but, I doubt the legality of the latter, and meetings publicly called, under the pretext of consulting, about ways and means, to petition Parliament, are often dispersed, by the interference of legal authority.

Ques. Has not Mr. Gourlay displayed a violation of facts, in his publications, respecting existing grievances?

Ans. Yes.

Ques. Will you point out the particulars?

Ans. Before I do that, I wish to volunteer a few remarks, out of the scope of your question. In Mr. Gourlay's address to the resident land owners of Upper Canada, under date of the second of April, is the following querulous remark. "It is not the men, it is the system which blasts every hope of good, and, till the system is overturned, it vain to expect any thing of value from change of representatives, or governors." And in a former part of the same address, he states as a radical

ical change of system, in the government of Upper Canada." If corruption has found its way into the government, it would be well, to purge it of those evils. But, to overthrow it, would, in my opinion, be a rash proceeding, because it was raised on those principles, wisely (by a great political writer) denominated "a stupendous fabric of human wisdom." But I have not yet had a convincing proof, of so much corruption, as Mr. Gourlay would persuade us to believe there is, not even, if I take his own public dealings to us for it. Did Mr. Gourlay only write, I should take him to be nothing more, than he appears. A man with abundant flow of ideas, fond of displaying wit, more than judgment, turning with slightly eccentricity, to amuse the public with variety. But the calling, and holding, unlawful meetings, by his direction, and under his influence; and the putting in operation a plan, by which he suggests, not less than ten thousand dollars can be raised, makes me fearful, something weighty lies concealed, and if you follow and support him, the weighty design will perhaps bear you down. "blast all your hopes," and overwhelm many of you, in its ruins. This is a country newly settled by a civilized race of human beings, and I hear many of you are unacquainted, with the crafty allurements of factious politicians. My good wishes, for the real interests of society, have induced me to address you, for I feel it a necessary duty, to display this political disturber, if your happiness, in his real political form.

KINGSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1818.

Several Communications are again unavoidably laid over till another week.

Amidst the clashing of political parties, which are at present agitating this and other parts of the Province, it is difficult for those who have been in any way connected with either party, to keep their minds always cool and unbiased, and to direct their conduct on every emergency, with that discrimination, which awards to each his precise right, and no more. Of all those who have been thus accidentally involved, none has a more difficult, or a more delicate part to act, than the Editor of a public paper.—Every party demands of him, to give publicity to those pieces in which they declare their principles, claim their rights, or vindicate their characters. But, unfortunately, it often happens, that when the spirit of party runs high, much is introduced on both sides, which only serves to excite passions, and excite the most violent passions of individuals.—The public have at present, but too many examples of the kind, shrouded upon their attention, to require any proof of this fact.

An instance of this species of writing, thro' bad advice and misconception at the moment, found its way into last week's Gazette; the Editor, on reflection, finds himself, in justice, both to the public, and to the feelings of the injured party in particular, bound to notice in the longest terms of disapprobation. The paragraph alluded to, is contained in Mr. Gourlay's letter of the 30th ult. The personalities there expressed, could only spring from base principles, and a cold, unfeeling heart, regardless of the pain which might thereby be given to innocent and unoffending individuals.—Besides, there is good reason to conclude, that the a serious there contained, is nothing else but a vindictive calumny, founded on gross misrepresentation.

Having thus come forward and publicly acknowledged the error in which he was inadvertently led, the Editor hopes that an indulgent public, and those persons, whose feelings he deeply regrets that he has been made the means of injuring will consider his general conduct, in connection with this candid acknowledgment, as some pledge, that in future the Kingston Gazette will be conducted with a still more rigid and scrupulous regard to the sentiments of propriety, truth and decorum, in every piece that may be presented for publication.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. PRINTER, I did not at first subscribe to contribute towards the expenses of forwarding a Petition to the Prince Regent, as proposed by Mr. Gourlay; not because I doubted the legality or propriety of the measure, or the existence of evils, requiring the interposition of the Prince Regent; but from an apprehension that it might be rendered ineffectual by prejudice and misrepresentation. However when I heard that Mr. Gourlay was arrested, and held to bail, at Kingston, in a heavy sum, for distributing the principles and proceedings, of the Niagara District, I determined to contribute my mite by subscription to support the Petition. In my estimation, the first principle of English Liberty is the right of Election; the second is the right of Petitioning, and directing our Petitions to any branch of government. This right of Petitioning is a main pillar in the temple of constitutional Liberty; and, when it is attacked, it becomes all true friends of the Constitution, whatever may be their opinion of the occasion for exercising the privilege in that particular instance, to unite in its defence. I have heard it asserted that the extraordinary proceeding alluded to was ordered by the Attorney General, and that the Justice was threatened with vengeance, if he would not sign the warrant. The assertion is not entitled to credit. The Attorney General could

not, in any case, bully a magistrate into the performance of an official act; and, in this case, surely, he would not commit his reputation, by anticipating the ineffect of a Grand Jury, that constitutional tribunal; especially, as the publishers themselves of the principles and proceedings of the District of Niagara, and hundreds and thousands of others, who have circulated that little pamphlet, are permanent and responsible residents within the jurisdiction of the Court. So that, if it should be deemed expedient to try the experiment of a prosecution, with a Jury of freemen, there could be no want of proper subjects for it, who would ever have a prosecutor the trouble of proving that they have circulated the publication. I therefore reject the suggestion of the Attorney General's interference, as a tale of slander. But, from whatever source it originated, and with whatever motives it was introduced, it appears to me to be, in its tendency, under existing circumstances, what the Representatives assembled at Ernest-Town have styled it, "an attempt to stigmatize as illegal the exercise of one of the most sacred rights of Englishmen, & to suppress it by criminal prosecution." With that impression, the moment I heard of it, I felt it to be a duty to express my sense of it by adding my name to the list of subscribers for the support of the proposed Petition to the Prince Regent.

A RESIDENT LAND OWNER. Hamilton, June 20, 1818.

A ridiculous report is circulating that the Administrator has written to certain magistrates to take notice and transmit to him the names of all persons, holding commissions, civil or military, who unite in petitioning the Prince Regent, as recommended by Mr. Gourlay, in order that they may be removed from their offices. Whether this report crept into circulation from accident, or is propagated to intimidate petitioners, or on the other hand to call reproach upon the administration, it is at once slanderous and foolish. Yes it is indeed a libel and a slander, to represent that the administrator stoops to the employment of a set of official informers and spies, to watch and inform against His Majesty's Subjects, for any purpose, & most of all for the purpose of wreaking vengeance upon them for exercising the acknowledged and unquestionable right of petitioning. It is not worthy of a moment's attention.

COMMON SENSE.

Mr. Stephen Miles, Editor of the Kingston Gazette.

SIR, Having observed in your Gazette of the 16th inst. an account of a numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of the Township of Hamilton, assembled at the house of Samuel Potter, Inn Keeper, on the sixth day of June instant, for the purpose of aiding and assisting the loyal inhabitants of the Niagara District, in a cause both noble and virtuous, and to approve of certain Addresses therein mentioned.

Being conscious that the account given of the said Meeting is greatly exaggerated, we feel it a duty incumbent upon us to give to the public, a true statement of this highly exaggerated assemblage, although we were not exactly present at the said meeting, we were so situated as to have it in our power to ascertain the name of every person present.

There is at least one hundred and fifty Land holders in the Township of Hamilton, and nearly as many more that are not Land holders, and we declare to the public, that the meeting held at the said Samuel Potter's, on the 6th day of June instant, did not consist of more than thirty three persons, of every description, a number of which were not land owners, but Aliens; and, with the exception of the Chairman, the Clerk, and a few others, the meeting consisted of the most idle, and most disaffected part of the community.

Given under our hands at Hamilton, this 29th day of June, 1818. ELIAS JONES, J. P. R. HENRY, ZACHES BURNHAM, J. P. T. WARD.

Sophiasburg, June 6th, 1818.

This day a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of this Township was held at the house of John Goslin, for petitioning the Prince Regent, with regard to the state of the Province. The meeting was regularly constituted by calling Jesse Potter to the Chair, and then proceeded, according to the recommendations of Mr. Robert Gourlay, & his Address to the resident Land owners of Upper Canada, dated April 2d, 1818, was read over, and unanimously approved of. The meeting then appointed Hy. Wm. Fox Representative, and Isaac Cole Clerk: also, a committee to forward the business of the Township, consisting of

Philip Roblin, John Stickney, John Goslin, Owen Wessels, and Nicholas Lazier.

JESSE POTTER, Chairman. A true copy, ISAAC COLE, Clerk.

OSNABRUCK, 29th June, 1818. ROBERT GOURLAY, Esq.

This day was held a respectable meeting of the land owners of the township of Osnabruk, at the house of Adam Baker, Inn-keeper, in the Eastern District; THOMAS M. JOHNSON chosen President, Robert Grant, Clerk; Joseph Bockus, James I. Grant and John Waldorf, Jun. as Committee for forwarding the designs of the meeting.

Knowing it to be too late to meet the Committee at Ernest Town or York at the days appointed, we know of no other meeting in the Eastern or Johnstown Districts, we therefore wish to be instructed how to proceed to meet the designs of Niagara District.

I am, with due respect, your ever well wisher, THOMAS M. JOHNSON, President.

We find from the Upper Canada Phoenix, that the great cause of enquiry into the state of the Province has been spiritedly taken up in the District of Gore. Our limits will not admit copying out of the above mentioned Newspaper the Reports of the Township meetings, but the following is for the District at large.

Hamilton, District of Gore, June 13th, 1818.

This day a meeting of the Representatives from the different Townships of the District, assembled at the Inn of Samuel Price, for the purpose of petitioning the Prince Regent on the general state of public affairs now existing in the Province of Upper Canada.

- Richard Bestley, Esq. representing the township of Barton. Peter Hogeboom, Ancaster. Jacob Springsteen, Saltfleet. Andrew Jones, Beverly. John Chisholm, Esq. East Flamborough. Capt. Wm Chisholm, Nelson. Sampson Howell, Trafalgar. Thomas Choat, Glanford. Frederick Yeoward, Haldimand. Jacob Erb, Waterloo.

Peter Hogeboom being unanimously called to the Chair, the business of the day commenced by reading Mr. Gourlay's address to the resident land holders of Upper Canada, and the petition to the Prince Regent. The address and petition were unanimously approved of by the meeting. The meeting proceeded to choose Representatives for the District, and the following persons were unanimously chosen, viz.

- Richard Bestley, Esq. to represent the County of Wentworth. Capt. William Chisholm, the County of Halton.

The meeting proceeded to elect a Treasurer and Secretary, Geo. Hamilton, Esq. was elected Treasurer, and John Chisholm, Esq. Secretary. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gourlay, for his spirited interference in behalf of his Majesty's subjects in this Province.

Quebec, June 22.

The Brig Hunter, which arrived this morning, sailed from London on the 16th ultimo.

His Grace the Duke of Richmond, it is said, was to embark for this Country about the 1st of this month. Carlton-House, May 7, 1818. His Grace the Duke of Richmond, this day, took the usual oaths as Governor of the Province of Lower and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and the Islands of Prince Edward and Cape Breton.

A Meeting

WILL be held at MOORE'S COFFEE-HOUSE, on Thursday Evening next, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of establishing a BANK at this place; where those who would wish to promote such an establishment are invited to attend. Kingston, 1st July 1818.

MRS. KURTSHALTS, INFORMS the Ladies of Kingston, that she carries on the

Millinery & Mantuamaking Business,

In Store Street, next door to Mr. Fife's Store; where every attention will be paid to those who may favour her with their custom. July 6.

ANY person desirous to clear from five to fifty acres of Land, situate on the bay side, nine miles from Kingston, adjoining Col. Johnson's, may have the timber upon the same, it being very convenient for rafting to town, or for the purpose of supplying the Steam Boats. For further particulars enquire of the proprietor, on the premises. J. C. WILSON. July 6, 1818.

WILL be sold by Public Auction, at Charles Dawson's Auction Room, opposite the Market, on Saturday the 11th inst. at 11 o'clock, A. M. VIZ

1 Mare, Pleasure Waggon & Set of Harness, A quantity of New Books, Chairs, Tables, Bedsteads, Hardware and Dry Goods. Which will be sold without reserve.

A Catalogue of the above Books can be seen any day previous to the day of sale. C. DAWSON, A. & B. July 6.

PROPOSALS BY AMOS LAT.

Author and Publisher of the late Maps of the Northern part of the State of New York, Upper and Lower Canada, for revising, correcting, and publishing, by Subscription, A FULL AND CORRECT MAP OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK, On a Scale of 7 miles to an inch.

The size of this Map is four feet four inches square, comprising a large part of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, with a part of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Upper Canada. This Map extends from the Canada Line, or 45th degree of North Latitude, south to the city of Philadelphia; and from Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania on the west, to New-Haven in Connecticut on the east. This extent of country is nearly all included within the lines of Latitude and Longitude that define the exterior limits of the State of New York.

The Publisher having been employed for upwards of twenty four years in exploring and surveying various parts of the United States and Upper and Lower Canada, and also in compiling and publishing Maps, which have met with very liberal patronage and encouragement, is flattered in the belief, that his present undertaking will be equally well received by the public, and insure him a liberal remuneration for all his exertions and endeavors to promote and extend the general improvement and knowledge of his own country, and the adjoining Provinces.

This Map will be printed on fine wove paper, handsomely colored, and delivered to Subscribers, In the sheet, - - - at - 7 Dls. Made portable in a book, 10 Mounted on rollers and varnished, 10 Subscriptions will be received at this Office.

A New Line of STAGES,

WILL commence running on 6th July, and leave the Carrying Place Monday and Thursday, 2 o'clock. The fare for York, a distance of 108 miles, will be £ 2 : 0 : 8— and paid as follows. From Carrying Place to Blanchards, 18 miles at 4s, 6s; from Blanchards to Hamilton village, 16 miles at 4d 5/4; from Hamilton village to Hartwells, 14 miles at 4s, 4/8; from Hartwells to Dewilligars, 25 miles; at 5d 10s; from Dewilligars to Gallaways, 20 miles at 5d 8/4; from Gallaways to York 15 miles at 5d 6/3 £ 2 : 0 : 8. Proprietors BENJ YOUNG; ARCH BLANCHARD, ELIJAH BUCK, THO HARTWELL, NATH DEWILLIGAR, JACOB GALLAWAY. Hamilton, July 1, 1818.

STRAYED, FROM the Town of Kingston on Friday last, a small Bay Horse; he has a white stripe in his face, his mane hogged, short tail, mane and tail black; a white spot upon one of his hind feet below the fet-lock, the skin off the ear of his right fore knee, from a cut, is about 8 or 9 years old: Whoever will bring the said Horse to Mrs Patrick's at Kingston, or to Mr. Ferguson near the Town, will be suitably rewarded. W. P. PATRICK. Kingston, July 6, 1818.

THE subscriber, intending to leave this Province, previous to the 15th instant, desires all persons to whom he may be indebted to apply for immediate payment, and those indebted to him are requested to settle their respective accounts without delay. JOHN BRAUNEIS. Kingston, 6th July, 1818.

Half a Guinea Reward. LOST, in this Town, on Wednesday Evening last, a letter signed M. C. F. Any person finding such, & upon delivering the same at Mr. Moore's Coffee House, will be entitled to the above sum. 6w2p