

**"The Attorney General, versus Montreal Jurists."**

In the late term of the Court of King's Bench, upon the trials of various individuals accused of crimes alleged to have been committed in the Indian Territories, being moved for on behalf of the prisoners who have been for a long time confined under these accusations, the Attorney General refused to bring them on, assigning as a reason that the prejudices existing in this District, on the subject of the disputes between the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies with which these causes were supposed to be connected and occasioned by the publications on one side and on the other, were such as to induce him to consent to the Government that justice both to the Crown and to the individuals accused, required that all these trials should be had elsewhere, where impartial juries could be selected. Hence none of these causes, notwithstanding the labours of the late grand juries can be expected to come on here."

In pursuance of these views, it is said to be in contemplation to bring all these cases for trial to Quebec, and that a new Commission, to be held in this City, is proposed to be substituted for the adjourned session of the Court of Oyer and Terminer at Montreal. The business will probably occupy several weeks of a very interesting season of the year, and the inhabitants of this District may be allowed to enquire whether any sufficient grounds assigned for imposing upon them, rather than their neighbours, the burden of attending as jurymen.

It is very curious that the Northwest Company should be so desirous of having the trials brought on at any other place, rather than at Montreal. Two or three years ago their influence there was so preponderant, that doubts might have been reasonably entertained, how far their adversaries would have met with justice in a trial at that city; but no one could have imagined any objection on their part. The members of that association have been for thirty years past, the leading members in society at Montreal. By family connections, by the ties of personal friendship, or by intercourse of business, they are connected with a great proportion of the principal inhabitants of the place; they expend there every year a large capital, which gives employment and affords a partial maintenance of the population. Even the hospitality which they have exercised, for so long a period of years, must have tended to create a prejudice in their favour. Their adversaries have enjoyed none of these sources of influence. It is only within the last three years, that they have even had an agent in the place. Their expenditure there has been inconsiderable, in comparison of that of the Northwest Company, and the persons whose pecuniary interests are in any degree connected with theirs, are so few, that they could not form even the shadow of a party. How is it then that all the natural influence of the Northwest Company has been done away? We are told that publications on the subject of their disputes with the Hudson Bay Company, have excited prejudices among the inhabitants of the District of Montreal. But these publications have not been all on one side. In looking over the files of Montreal newspapers, we find at least as many articles on the side of the Northwest Company as against them, and their pamphlets have been fully as numerous as those of their adversaries. It is reasonable to suppose that where they had to many personal connections, their publications would be read with a favourable bias, and would meet with ample justice. The appellation of prejudice cannot be applicable to the impression arising from open and full discussion of a subject, where the attention of the public has been alive to all that was to be said, and where both parties have had an opportunity of answering the statements and arguments of their adversaries. Is it credible that such a discussion should produce an erroneous impression, so powerful, that of thousands of persons who have no interest whatever in the subject, should be incapable of judging fairly between man and man, even when upon oath to give a true verdict, according to the evidence. This is a most extraordinary charge to be brought against the inhabitants of one half of the Province; and before it be admitted as just, we may be allowed to enquire whether it be not equally probable that the Attorney General may be mistaken, and may have formed his opinion rather upon the representation of others, than upon his own observation. The fact ought certainly to be ascertained upon very sufficient grounds, before it is assigned as a reason for charging the finances of this Province with the expense of conveying and maintaining a multitude of witnesses, upon a business in which the interests of the Province are very little concerned.

**From the Niagara Spectator.**

**Meeting of the Upper Canadian Convention, of Friends to Enquiry.**

(Concluded.)

Motion, by Mr. Washburn, that every member of this Convention, desirous of making any motion, shall commit the same to writing, in order that it may be entered in the Journals, by the Secretary, in due order. Seconded by R. Kerr. Tuesday, 7th July, 1818.—Carried.

ADDITIONAL.

Resolved 4th. That the monies received for the purpose of sending Commissioners to England with the Petition for the redress of grievances, be, by District Treasurers, remitted to Messrs. Thompson and Detlor, at Kingston, to be applied by the Committee, in furtherance of measures for sending home said Petition, through the medium of the house of Assembly.

5th. That the proceedings of this meeting be published, and that the Convention do now adjourn, till summoned to meet again at such time as the committee shall direct.

(Signed) D. WASHBURN. Seconded by Robert Kerr. July 7th, 1818. (received)

Moved, by Mr. Drake and seconded by Mr. Hawley, that Mr. Washburn's proposals, as well as Mr. Gourlay's be left to a select Committee, composed of three or more of the Gentlemen present, and representing the several Districts throughout the Province.—It is further moved that Messrs. John Clark, Robert Hamilton and Thomas Coleman, do act as a Committee, and that all such further papers, coming either from Mr. Washburn or Mr. Gourlay, be received by them and that the said Committee, shall make such report as they deem most expedient, the same however to be laid before the Members of the Convention for their consideration.

(Signed) R. DRAKE. (Signed) DAVIS HAWLEY. Tuesday, 7th July, 1818.

(Carried, Mr. Drake being added to the Committee.)

Moved, that every Member of this Convention having written communications, either as an Address or a Resolve shall submit the same to the Chairman. (Signed) THOMAS COLMAN. Seconded by R. DRAKE.

Resolved, That we do now adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow, unless the select Committee shall desire meeting sooner.

(Signed) D. WASHBURN, (Signed) R. DRAKE. July 7, 1818.

Wednesday, July, 8th, 1818. Which day the Convention being constituted by Richard Beasley, Esq. taking the Chair; the Select Committee gave in the following Report on the business submitted to their consideration.—Mr. Coleman first reading an Address to the Meeting on the same subject.

The Committee, composed of Messrs. Clark, Drake, Hamilton and Coleman, report, that the causes stated by Mr. Gourlay, as laid before the Committee, are such as induce them to recommend to their brother members that the proposals of Mr. Gourlay be adopted in preference to those of Mr. Washburn, the material difference being only that of presenting the Petition to the Prince Regent through Sir Peregrine Maitland, instead of the present House of Assembly, which would, by adopting Mr. Washburn's measures, cause much delay, and deviate from those principles which we have and do now profess, that of petitioning the Prince, direct, from the subject.

(Signed) ROBT. HAMILTON, (Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN, (Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) JOHN CLARK.

Mr. Washburn's and Mr. Gourlay's Resolutions being read over, the latter were generally approved of; but, a proposal being made, that they should be read a second time, and passed severally, this course was adopted.

Mr. Robert Kerr voted against all the Resolutions; Mr. Washburn voted against all but the 8th; the rest of the Convention agreed to the Resolutions.

Mr. Washburn moved that the resolutions drawn up and submitted by him be recorded by the secretary on the Journals, immediately after those adopted by the majority of the Convention.

(Signed) D. WASHBURN, (Signed) R. KERR. Wednesday, 8th July, 1818.

Dr. Sumner moves that William Kerr and George Hamilton, Esquires, be admitted to the sitting of this Convention, and have the privilege of expressing

their opinions on all subjects brought before us—but not to vote. Seconded by Mr. Hawley, and carried.

Moved, by Mr. Wm. Kerr, that Mr. Reuben Pielton, Representative for the Township of Vaughan, Home District, be admitted to the sitting of this Convention, and have the privilege of expressing his opinion on all subjects; but not to vote.—seconded by Mr. Washburn, and carried.

Mr. Washburn moved that the Reports and Resolutions of the select Committee, chosen yesterday, be recorded by the Secretary; but not adopted by this Convention. (Signed) D. WASHBURN, And seconded by R. J. KERR.

10th.

A letter from Mr. Stewart of Colchester being read to the Convention by Mr. Drake, Mr. Gourlay moved, seconded by Mr. Drake, that the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Mr. Stewart of Colchester for his friendly and able communication, the same to be conveyed by a letter from the Secretary of this Convention.—Carried.

Moved, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, according to the resolutions approved of this day, and that Mr. Peterson, Mr. Drake, Mr. Martin, Mr. Gourlay, and Mr. Coleman, do constitute the above Committee.—Carried.

(Signed) ROBERT HAMILTON, (Signed) Seconded by J. CLARK.

Moved, by Mr. Gourlay, seconded and carried, that the Representatives, here present, from the Newcastle, Midland and Johnstown Districts do constitute a Committee for the purpose specified in a Resolution of this day, carried, viz. to chuse a Secretary and Treasurer for the lower Branch Convention.—also to fix a day for the first meeting of the said Branch Convention.—such appointments, to be reported to-morrow to this Convention.—moved and carried, the same for the Upper Branch Convention.

Moved, that this Convention to adjourn till eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

(Signed) ROBERT HAMILTON, (Signed) PAUL PETERSON. Wednesday, July 8th, 1818.—Agreed.

York, Thursday, 9th July, 1818. The Convention being constituted by Mr. Beasley taking the Chair, the following report was read.

York, 9th July, 1818. The Committee appointed yesterday to draw out an Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and to His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, now submit, that the address, with some alterations which appeared in the Pamphlet of the Niagara District, may do for the first; and, they herewith offer a Draft of an address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, for consideration.

(Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN, (Signed) PAUL PETERSON, (Signed) ROBERT GOURLAY, (Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) C. MARTIN.

The draft read (this our limits will not admit; but it will appear in a few days in a pamphlet now printing at the Spectator Office.)

I move that the heads of the address (now read) to Sir Peregrine Maitland, be adopted by the Convention.

(Signed) ROBERT HAMILTON, (Signed) J. CLARK. Thursday, 9th July, 1818.—Carried.

Mr. Washburn, protests against the adoption of the address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, now read.

(Signed) D. WASHBURN. York, 9th July, 1818.

I protest against the proceedings of this Convention, in adopting the heads of an address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, just read.

(Signed) ROBERT J. KERR. July 9th, 1818.

Moved, that Mr. Beasley, Mr. Clark, Mr. Geo. Hamilton, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Wm. Kerr, be a permanent Committee of Management, after the adjournment of this Convention, and till its next meeting:—that they, or any four of them, shall have power to constitute the Deputation to Sir Peregrine Maitland; and that they also finish the wording and style of the Petition to the Prince Regent and Sir Peregrine Maitland, which, the Chairman Mr. Beasley, shall have power to sign for this Convention, after its adjournment.

(Signed) ROBERT HAMILTON, (Signed) R. DRAKE. 9th July, 1818.—Carried.

In conformity to an appointment of yesterday, the Representatives from the different Districts, viz: the Newcastle, Midland and Johnstown, being a committee, do appoint C. Thomson, secretary, for the lower branch Convention; and Messrs. Thomson and Detlor, treasurer; and, that the first Saturday of August, be appointed for the meeting of Representatives of the lower Branch Convention, at the house of Robert Walker, in Kingston, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

(Signed) THOS. COLEMAN, (Signed) PAUL PETERSON, (Signed) JACOB W. MYERS, (Signed) DAVIS HAWLEY, (Signed) NATHAN HICOK. Thursday, July 9th, 1818.

York, July 9th, 1818. Agreeable to a Resolution passed yesterday for the purpose of chusing a Treasurer and Secretary for the Upper Branch Convention, and to appoint a time for said Convention, to meet at Ancaster, there to regulate the affairs of the following Districts, viz. Niagara, Gore, London, Western, and Home Districts,—the Committee do appoint Monday the 20th inst. as a proper day to meet at Ancaster, at Newton's Inn, 10 o'clock A. M. & do nominate Col. Richard Beasley, Treasurer, and Geo. Hamilton, Esq. Secretary.

(Signed) Wm. CHISHOLM, (Signed) JOHN CLARK, (Signed) CYRUS SUMNER, (Signed) CALVIN MARTIN, (Signed) RODERICK DRAKE.

Moved, that should Sir Peregrine Maitland not arrive in Upper Canada, during this month of July, it shall be in the power of the members of the Deputation to forward the Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to England, there to be presented, as to them shall seem proper—either at the Levee, or, at the Public Office, competent to receive Petitions to the Throne.

(Signed) R. HAMILTON, (Signed) THOS. COLEMAN. Thursday, July 9th, 1818.—Carried.

Moved, that this Convention, do adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. (Signed) R. HAMILTON, (Signed) CYRUS SUMNER.

York, Friday, July 10th, 1818.

Mr. Beasley having taken the chair of the Convention of Friends to Enquiry—it was moved, that the minutes of the Convention, be read by appointment of the Chairman.

(Signed) THOS. COLEMAN, (Signed) DAVIS HAWLEY. 10th July, 1818.

The minutes of each day's meeting, were then read severally, and signed by the Chairman.

Moved, that if no advertisement be published, or notice given, by the Branch Conventions, for the meeting of this general Convention of Friends to Enquiry, then this Convention shall not meet again here, till the first Monday of February, 1819; and which meeting may be delayed, one, two, three or four weeks later, should the Branch Conventions see reasons for the same, and, by advertisement and writing as before agreed upon, notify to all and each of the members any other day of meeting, not beyond the first Monday of March, 1819, such notice being published and written before the first day of January, 1819.

(Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) W. CHISHOLM. Carried.

Moved, that should there be no call of Parliament, or dissolution before the first of September, nor any hope of the Session commencing before the middle of October, then it shall be the duty of the Branch Conventions, to have petitions drawn up and signed all over their respective Districts, both to the Prince Regent and the Commons House of the Imperial Parliament, to be sent home without delay, by a Commission consisting of two persons chosen by the Upper, and two by the lower Branch Convention: the secretary of this general Convention to accompany, and be the secretary of the Commission.

(Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) Wm. CHISHOLM. Carried.

Moved, that the permanent committee shall have power to call a general meeting of this Convention, on advertisement and written notice to each member, signed by five of the said committee.

(Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) Wm. CHISHOLM. Carried.

Moved, that a duplicate of all communications which pass between the Branch Conventions, be at the same time sent to the secretary of this Convention,

to be by him made known to the permanent committee

(Signed) ROBT. GOURLAY, (Signed) JOHN CLARK. Carried.

Moved, that the permanent committee shall publish in the newspapers or otherwise, the whole, or what part of the transactions of this Convention, and other meetings of "Friends to Enquiry," as shall to them seem fit, and that any person whatever, shall have a right to obtain extracts from the journals, in whole or part, on offering a competent remuneration for trouble to the secretary.

(Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) PAUL PETERSON. Carried.

Motion, that the secretary of the Convention, W. J. Kerr, Esq. be indemnified for stationary made use of, and other incidental expenses in his correspondence and other duties of his office.

(Signed) Wm. CHISHOLM, (Signed) PAUL PETERSON. Carried.

Moved, that Mr. Wm. Kerr, Mr. George Hamilton and Mr. Pielton, accept the thanks of this Convention, for their assistance during the sitting.

(Signed) JOHN CLARK, (Signed) THOS. COLEMAN. Carried.

Moved, that Robert Gourlay, Esq. receive the thanks of this Convention, for his able and manly conduct in promoting the general welfare of the Province, and for his assiduous attention at this Convention—and that they hold themselves bound to support the measures adopted by the Niagara committee, submitted by him to them.

(Signed) THOS. COLEMAN, (Signed) JOHN CLARK. Carried.

Moved, that opportunity has been given to Mr. Robert Kerr, to show cause for the letter, which, with his signature, appeared in the Upper Canada Gazette, of the 2d of July; and also in the Niagara Spectator of the same week, reflecting on the character of Mr. Robert Gourlay; and that he has not been able to bring the members forward a single reason, sufficient to convince this Convention, of the propriety of a publication so strange and unnatural:—that a letter be written by the Chairman, to each of the Township Representatives, requesting them immediately to meet and chuse another person, to represent them on all occasions connected with the business of these meetings, and who may appear for them, if possible, at the meeting of the Branch Convention of the Friends to Enquiry, at Kingston, the first Saturday of August next, at the House of Mr. Walker, Inn keeper, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

(Signed) R. DRAKE, (Signed) Wm. CHISHOLM. Carried.

Moved, that the thanks of this Convention, be presented to the Chairman, for his most able and assiduous attention to the business of this Convention.

(Signed) ROBT. HAMILTON, (Signed) JOHN CLARK.

Moved, that this Convention do adjourn till the first Monday of February, 1819, or till such time as may be advertised according to the Resolution of this Convention.

(Signed) THOS. COLEMAN, (Signed) ROBT. HAMILTON. Carried.

Correct copy of the Minutes of the Convention. (Signed) RICHARD BEASELY, Chairman.

FOR THE KINGSTON GAZETTE.

OBSERVER'S ADDRESS, To the Inhabitants of Upper Canada. No. II.

(Continued.) I will now proceed to answer the last question, respecting existing grievances.

In a general point of view, I have not discovered any; and when the state of this country is compared, with that of any other country in christendom, we have no real cause to complain.

Since the appearance of Mr. Gourlay's complaints, of so many corrupt practices, I have made enquiry, respecting existing grievances, and, from the information received, can, with satisfaction declare, no change is made in my opinion.

Ques. Why then do so many of the people support his plans? Ans. All that has originated in momentary impulse, and is the effect of a similar cause, and if reflection ever touches his mind, time will discover to Mr. Gourlay his error, and to the people, that they have been deceived.