

Montreal, 5th Aug. 1818.

Mr. MILLS,
SIR.

In your Gazette of the 28th July, you have published by request, a communication stated to be from the Canadian Courant, but which originally appeared in the Quebec Gazette of the 30th March. Last, the period of time to which it relates; a reply to that communication, under the signature of L. L. M. was inserted both in the Quebec Gazette and the Canadian Courant; and you will therefore oblige me and all who wish well to truth and justice. I am enemies to deception and oppression, to falsify in your next number that answer which I send you enclosed.

I am Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. L. M.

Montreal, 10th April 1818.

Mr. Neilson,

The communication which appeared in your supplementary paper of the 30th March, on the subject of the trials said to be expected to take place in Quebec, connected with the disputes between the North-west and Hudson's Bay Companies, seems, under the appearance of great plausibility, to be a continuation of that system which has so long, and so successfully, been adopted for poisoning the public mind, and prejudging questions which are to be determined by the verdict of a jury.

Your correspondent assumes that it is the North-west Company, who are particularly anxious that the trials in question should not take place in Montreal. With regard to the two individuals connected with the North-west Company, lately put to the bar in the Court of King's Bench at Quebec, but whose trial has, unaccountably, after failing two days, been withdrawn, thus subjecting them to another six months of grievous suspense and imprisonment, although the offence charged against them has nothing to do with the disputes between the two Companies, it is to be remarked, that their removal to Quebec was decidedly against their own desire, and was considered by them as a hard measure on the part of the Crown officers. They and others, said to be implicated in the same affair, but the bills of indictment against whom were withdrawn by the grand jury at Quebec, repeatedly pressed to have their trials in the Court of Oyer and Terminer here, but, although not one single trial of any kind took place in that Court, which adjourned, at very early hours from day to day, for want of employment, their entreaties were in vain. The attorney general, however, promised that they should have their trials in the Court of King's Bench that followed. In that Court a considerable time was occupied in arguing the competency of the Court to try them; and, in the mean while, the attorney general even named a day for their arraignment; but, after the Court had adjudged itself competent for that purpose, he suddenly declared that the prejudices he had discovered to exist in Montreal, were such, that he could not, either in justice to the Crown, or to the prisoners, consent to have their fate decided by a Montreal jury. In these cases thus, it is evident, that it was the Crown that was desirous of the removal. It seems, however, very strange that Quebec should be selected for the trial of some of these causes, whilst most of those which are of the greatest importance as relating to these disputes, have, upon the representations made by the North-west Company as far back as March 1817, and in virtue of instructions from His Majesty's Ministers, been ordered, under the great seal of this Province, to be held in Upper Canada. The Crown lawyers well know that nearly the same witnesses will be required in all the cases; that most of them are now in Upper Canada, and that, after having been kept in attendance from eighteen months to two years, if a commission is to issue for the trial of a party, these causes in Quebec, they will have to be danced down thither, and back again, at an enormous expense and the greatest inconvenience. The North-west Company would be extremely willing to submit any question in which they are concerned to a Quebec Jury, from whom they are convinced they would receive a most impartial verdict, but it is not they who are desirous of imposing upon the good people of your district the burden of extra duties as jurymen, whilst Upper Canada is so much preferable even to Montreal. In that Province it is believed no particular bias prevails in favor of either of the rival Companies; and as well on that account and on the score of the convenience of witnesses, and the saving of expense, as because many of the transactions which are to be investigated, occurred within the acknowledged limits of Upper Canada, and can therefore not be brought

forward under any other jurisdiction, it is desirable that the whole of these trials should come on there.

Your correspondent makes out a very specious *prima facie* case; and justly concludes, that, in the North-west Company have lost in the estimation of their fellow citizens, the preponderance which their wealth, their influence, their family connections and their hospitality had gained them, there must be some cause for it; and he will not allow that the publications which have appeared have produced that effect, because, they have not all been on one side, that they have been as numerous on the side as on the other, and that an open and full discussion of the subject has given an opportunity to both parties to answer the statements and arguments of their adversaries. With regard to the personal respect in which the individual partners of the North-west Company are held, that has very little to do with the question; but, as a body, a society of merchants, who by their perseverance and powerful means, had absolutely monopolized a lucrative branch of commerce, who had become, as it were, the aristocracy of the trade, it is well known that they have for years been "looked upon with that jealousy, which is inseparable from the spirit of traffic; and that numbers were secretly longing for an opportunity of overturning their prosperity, and of partaking of those profits from which they conceived themselves unjustly excluded. He must be little acquainted with the human heart who does not know that the desire of gain is inevitably productive of envy in those who do not fare as well as their neighbors in that respect, and that envy generates a more inveterate prejudice than any other passion. Latent as this feeling was, it has been, undeniably, a potent cause why the publications in question have been perused, not with a bias favourable to the North-west Company, as it is assumed must have been the case, but with an avidity to find something in them for the condemnation of that association; and this alone, therefore, would satisfactorily account for the prejudices supposed to exist, if they are in fact so preponderant as your correspondent predicates.

But, supposing an absolute previous neutrality in the public, although these publications have certainly not been all on one side, there have been more on the side of the Hudson's Bay Company and of Lord Selkirk than the other; and there is no comparison as to the ingenuity, the force of language, and the literary talents, that have been exhibited. In those essential requisites *ad captandum vulgus*, the advocates of the Ld. Selkirk and H. B. Company have had decidedly the advantage; and whilst matters of fact, sound arguments, and fair inferences have appeared in homely, unadorned, and sometimes perplexed and illiterate language on one side, falsehood, sophistry, and bad logic, have, on the other, been arrayed in all the meretricious allurements of learning, elegant diction, and theatrical effect. These are natural consequences of the respective situations of the contending parties; the one intensely occupied in the plodding and mechanical processes of their trade, without either acquired abilities, or inherent inclination, for a literary contest, the other, with time and talent at their command, having little else to do than to study how to attack and annoy. To the same cause may like wise be attributed the immense difference there has been in the industry with which these publications have been respectively circulated. Assiduous attention has always been paid by Lord Selkirk's party to disseminate every production in their favour. Their London publications have been put into the hands of every body throughout Canada that could be prevailed upon to accept of them; whilst only a few copies of the one that was printed in England in behalf of the North-west Company were sent out for the use of the members of that body only, and scarcely one copy is now to be met with any where. The paragraphs of the party in the newspapers have been diligently multiplied, and re-echoed from Inverness to London, to Quebec and Montreal, to Boston and to New-York. Immediate French translations of their paragraphs, as well as original communications in that tongue, calculated for the meridian of the Voyageurs, have been made in French papers of the Province; and in short no means have been left untried to increase the number of converts to their creed; while the bantings of those who have stood forward in behalf of the North-west Company, have been thrust forth to the world to seek their fortune and to be propagated or not, according to the prejudices or the indifference of the Editors of the public prints in either hemisphere.

In these circumstances, therefore, whatever your correspondent may think, the impartial part of the public will probably see, sufficient grounds for any

diminution, supposing such to have taken place, that may be apparent in the natural influence in Montreal of the North-west Company.

L. L. M.

NEW-YORK, August 3.

Latest from England.

Yesterday arrived ship Importer, Captain Dingley, in 40 days from Liverpool, bringing English papers to the 15th of June.

Parliament was dissolved on the 10th of June, by a speech from the Prince Regent.

It is said that twelve hundred persons have emigrated this season from Guernsey to America, mostly to the United States.

House of Commons, June 8.—At half past one o'clock the speaker took the chair. Mr. Wilberforce observed, that he had received information on which he could depend, that the slave trade was openly carried on to a great extent, in the French colonies on the N. W. coast of Africa, and that this inhuman practice was accompanied by circumstances of peculiar atrocity, murders having been committed by wholesale in its prosecution. He concluded by moving an address to the Prince Regent for information on the subject.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF LORDS, June 10.

This day being appointed for the prorogation of Parliament, the doors of the House of Lords were thrown open at an early hour, and about 12 o'clock the body of the house was nearly filled by a splendid assemblage of ladies, elegantly and fashionably dressed. On the right hand of the throne several of the foreign Ambassadors, with other foreigners of distinction, were seated. Among these were distinguished the Grand Duke Michael, with his suite. The Ministers and Officers of State appeared also near the Throne, in State uniforms. The Judges were present in their robes, but the attendance of Peers were not very numerous.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent entered the house about two o'clock in the uniform of a field Marshal, attended by the great officers of his household. On his entrance the curiosity of the ladies seemed to acknowledge no restraint. They actually, as if with one consent, clambered on the benches and stood during the entire ceremony.

The House of Commons having been summoned to attend his Royal Highness, the Speaker, accompanied by several Members, entered, and with the usual form approached the bar.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent then addressed both houses of Parliament, as follows:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is with deep regret that I am again under the necessity of announcing to you, that no alteration has occurred in the state of his Majesty's lamented indisposition.

"I continue to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country, and of their desire to maintain the general tranquillity.

"I am fully sensible of the attention which you have paid to the many important objects which have been brought before you.

"I derive peculiar satisfaction from the measure which you have adopted in pursuance of my recommendation, for augmenting the number of places of public worship belonging to the Established Church; and I confidently trust that this measure will be productive of the most beneficial effects on the religion and moral habits of the people.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I thank you for the supplies which you have granted to me for the services of the present year; and I highly approve of the steps you have taken with a view to the reduction of the untended debt.

"I am happy to be able to inform you, that the revenue is in a course of continued improvement.

"My Lords and Gentlemen—

"In closing this session, I think it proper to inform you, that it is my intention forthwith to dissolve the present, and to give directions for calling a new Parliament. In making this communication, I cannot refrain from adverting to the important change which has occurred in the situation of this country, and of Europe, since I first met you in this place.

"At that period, the dominion of the common enemy had been so widely extended over the continent, that resistance to his power was by many deemed to be hopeless; and in the extremities of Europe alone was such resistance effectually maintained.

"By the unexampled exertions which you enabled me to make, in aid of countries nobly contending for independence, and by the spirit which was kindled in so many nations, the continent was at

length delivered from the most galling and oppressive tyranny under which it had ever laboured; and I had the happiness, by the blessing of Divine Providence, to terminate, in conjunction with his Majesty's Allies, the most eventful and sanguinary contest in which Europe had for centuries been engaged, with unparalleled success and glory.

"The prosecution of such a contest for so many years, and more particularly the efforts which marked the close of it, have been followed within our own country, as well as throughout the rest of Europe, by considerable internal difficulties and distress. But deeply as I felt for the immediate pressure upon his Majesty's people, I nevertheless looked forward without dismay, having always the fullest confidence in the solidity of the resources of the British Empire, and in the relief which might be expected from a continuance of peace, and from the patience, public spirit, and energy of the nation.

"These expectations have not been disappointed.

"The improvement in the internal circumstances of the country is happily manifest, and promises to be steadily progressive; and I feel a perfect assurance that the continued loyalty and exertions, of all classes of his Majesty's subjects will confirm these growing indications of national prosperity, by promoting obedience to the laws and attachment to the Constitution, from which all our blessings have been derived."

"Then the Lord Chancellor, having received directions from his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, said—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is the will and pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, that this Parliament be now dissolved: and this Parliament is dissolved accordingly."

His Royal Highness then withdrew with the same forms as he had entered, and the Commons having retired to their own Houses, the House of Lords separated.

[Two Proclamations were then issued by the Prince Regent, commanding the new Parliament to meet on the 4th of August.]

From the Niagara Spectator.

Mr. GOURLAY,

To the worthy Inhabitants of the District of Niagara.

(continued)

IT was my intention to have entered an action against Mr. Macaulay, at next Kingston Assizes, as the most solemn way of bringing the question to issue; but, I have been just informed by a gentleman of the law, on board, that the opportunity will be lost this season, unless I send an express from York, to Kingston, within two or three days from this date, which I shall not do. The action, so far as it regards the damages to me, will be equally good upon another occasion; and, in the mean time, I trust, there is sufficient evidence produced, to induce the Post-Master General, to think seriously of supplanting Mr. Macaulay in an office where discretion and good faith are so very requisite. When I get to Queenston, I shall be able to lay my hands on a few papers, which will still further expose the unwarrantable liberties of the post master.

Niagara, July 28, 1818.

In the Kingston Gazette, of 13th January last I had a letter inserted, desiring gentlemen below Lake Ontario, to address for me, at the Post Office, Kingston. The Honorable Thomas Clark, in a letter, dated York, Feb. 21, 1818, wrote to me, "there are, I understand, many reports for you in the Post Office at Kingston"; and, this I noticed in my letter, which appeared in the Niagara Spectator, of the 12th March. On the 18th day of March, I received a letter from Mr. Macaulay, of which the following is a copy.

Post-Office, Kingston, March 2, 1818.

SIR,

I beg leave to inform you, that I have in this Office, three reports of Townships addressed to you and waiting your arrival at this place. If you have altered your intention of coming to Kingston, you will please inform me where I am direct the reports and oblige, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MACAULAY.

Mr. Robert Gourlay.

I wrote in reply as follows.

Niagara, March 18, 1818.

SIR,

I thank you for your intelligence as to the Reports, and your offer to forward them. I still shall be at Kingston, and then shall call for them at the Post Office. It will oblige me,

if you will hand the inclosed to the Editor of the Kingston Gazette.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

Mr. John Macaulay Post Office, Kingston.

In conformity with my intention of passing through Kingston, on my way to England, I had written to a friend in the United States, to address a letter, with certain required information, to lay for me at the Post Office, Kingston. This letter bore upon it the post mark of the town whence it was sent, signifying its departure, viz. 16 January, and must have been a month or more at Kingston, prior to Mr. Macaulay's advice to me of the 2d March. Notwithstanding my assuring him, that I was still to be at Kingston, Mr. Macaulay forwarded this letter to me at Queenston, with the Kingston departure mark of 6th April. Nothing but the state of the weather, and badness of roads, had prevented my leaving Queenston, on my way to England, up to the 2d of April. Had I done so, I might have missed the letter which I expected to find at Kingston; and the disappointment would have been great, for it contained directions as to my travelling on to New York, and the addresses of many individuals, whom my friend was so good as to have prepared for my reception by the way.—The additional postage which I had to pay for this letter, at Queenston, may also be mentioned, though a consideration of no comparative consequence.

To bring up this detail, I shall give the copy of a note which I wrote to Mr. Macaulay, a few days after my arrival in Kingston.

Walker's Hotel, May 21, 1818.

SIR,

Being now in Kingston, I have to request that you will give the Bear-er, the three Township Reports, which you informed me, by letter, addressed to me at Queenston, had been lodged with you, as Master of the Post-Office here.

I am, your's &c.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

To Mr. Macaulay, Post Office, Kingston.

This note was delivered by Mr. Peter Hamilton, of Queenston, who brought me, from the Post-office, two packets, containing Township Reports, and a verbal message, that the third had been returned to Mr. Hagerman. Not a word was said of that which I heard was withdrawn by Col. Stone; and, whether any besides had been withdrawn, from the "many" spoken of by Mr. Clark, must rest with the discretion of the Post Master to disclose.

To argue with a man, who prates about the "practice throughout the wide extent of the British Empire," while he knows, absolutely, nothing of that within the narrow sphere of his own department, would be stooping low indeed. I shall only call the attention of the public, to the extreme injustice done me in the single case before us, by a departure from the rule laid down by the British Statute. To elucidate this, the suffering one package to be withdrawn, is as good as if such liberty had been taken with a hundred.

When I first resolved to go home, by way of Kingston, I had no objection whatever, but to afford the people below lake Ontario, the latest chance of communicating with me; and, I repeat, that it was for their interest much more than for mine, that I did so. I repeat, that although I felt great satisfaction in doing equal duty to the whole Province, and should have had great pleasure in finding the inhabitants repose confidence in me, still it was, in other respects, matter of comfort, that every township did not send me a Report. In that case I should have been overwhelmed with repetitions, which could not have been left unpublished, without giving offence, while my main design would only have been clogged by them. Now, if to do equal duty to the people of this Province, I was to go 150 miles out of the way—if, reposing confidence in the excellence of our laws, I was assured that letters and packets would be in safe keeping at Kingston Post Office: how was it to shock my feelings, when I came to know, that, not only Strachan, the Schoolmaster, had been from York to Cornwall, endeavoring to blast public confidence in me;—not only, that his pupil Bethune, was flying in the face of common sense, to breed distrust of my principles; but, that this other pupil of the Post Office, was giving away my property, even that which he had assured me was "waiting my arrival." Without any obligation to hold the packets safe for me, as Post Master, did not his own assurance, by letter, establish such an obligation? The single packet, withdrawn by Hagerman, was, in one sense, of no value; in another, it was invaluable. Under circumstances, the smaller the number of Reports sent me to the Post Office, the