

banks of Ohio, and its tributary streams above the Falls. On this day, the directors of the Jeffersonville Ohio Canal Company assembled pursuant to previous arrangements, in the town of Jeffersonville, and commenced the great work which has so long been the subject of anxious expectation, and almost unanimously demanded from the patriotism no less than from the true interest of the western country. It is hardly necessary to say that the object of this great undertaking is to procure a safe and convenient passage for boats of every description, at all seasons of the year, around the falls of the Ohio.

At twelve o'clock the directors of the canal repaired to the spot, and each taking a spade commenced the excavation. The example of the directors was immediately followed with cheers and huzzas by a large number of witnesses assembled to view the interesting spectacle. The regular laborers, to a large number, employed for the purpose, animated by the great glow of feeling and interest that pervaded the scene, then commenced their operations, and the work progressed with a spirit never surpassed.—Indiana paper.

#### Dreadful Calamity by Fire.

It has seldom fallen to our lot to record an accident of a more appalling nature than has occurred at the village of Winterborne Stoke, about eight miles from Salisbury. An accident originated in carelessness, and causing the sudden destruction by fire of no less than seven human beings, broke out between one and two o'clock on Thursday morning last, in a house belonging to Mr. G. Nellow, the end of the house a shop keeper and his family resided; in the other, two families consisting of nine poor persons, seven of whom, shocking to relate, were burned to death. The fire was not discovered until the whole of the latter part of the building was enveloped in flames. It appears it was occasioned by Mary Adlem (one of the sufferers) having previously to going to bed, placed some ashes near a bundle of heath, in a buttery not far from the fire place. The names of the unfortunate sufferers were—Christiann Adlem, aged 80 years; Mary Adlem aged 40, and her daughter Eliza aged 3 years; Jane Target, aged 63; Ann Davis, aged 22, and her infant daughter Jane, aged 10 months; and Elizabeth Wilkins, aged 17 years.—James Davis, (the husband of Ann Davis) escaped with great difficulty, having one of his children, three years old. This poor man in the fright of the moment, leaped from the window to the ground, but recollecting the danger to which his wife and children were exposed, he re-entered the chambers. At that time the women of both apartments were running about in an agony of despair; he caught his eldest child with his left hand and with the right dragged the mother, clasping her infant to her bosom, down the stair case; but by some means, the wife became disengaged from his grasp, and was lost, with her infant, in the flames which surrounded them. The father bursting through the door which was on fire, again reached the outside with his child, but both were dreadfully burnt.

The roof at this moment fell in, burying in the mass of fire, in addition to the mother and her infant, the four women and the child who were left behind. The shop keeper, occupying the lower part of the house, and consisting of several persons, fortunately escaped. The fire then communicated with the stable, granary and outhouses, and some of which were consumed, together with about 380 fleeces of wool, and a number of sacks of vetches—a loss altogether but trifling, when compared with the sacrifice of the lives of five women and two children.

London paper.

The Circassian Lady.—The Gazette de France contradicts the uttallant observations of the other Paris papers as to the

back chairs with claw feet—All contained in a cherry shell.—Plyh. Tiph.

#### From the Liverpool Mercury of April 16

While it is in the power of the directors of the Bank of England to increase or diminish the currency of the country at their pleasure, no person can form any probable estimate of the value of his property at any period but a little remote. The estate that is purchased to day, and reckoned a good bargain, may, by the bank's limiting its discounts or withdrawing its notes from circulation, be rendered in a very short time not worth half the sum paid for it; and on the contrary, if the directors were more liberal in granting discounts, and increased the number of their notes in circulation, either by lending to the state or to individuals, the estate might become worth double the money; that is, double the paper, it had been sold for. This artificial and unnatural system renders the money value of all property in the empire dependent on the whims and opinions, the whims and caprices, of twenty four individuals; and their whims, which makes one trade flourish, and another bad. They trade on the scale of value, and change its gradation as they think proper. The fate that hangs over the heads of those millions of individuals, the hope of which remained in circulation for many months afterwards, will, we prevent any further attempts to

alter the system, and by an incontinent and unskillful rendering bank notes into cash or bullion, can destroy the currency to a sound state. It is a scheme for the accomplishment of a most desirable object, will be found to be entirely delusive and ineffectual.

#### THE REVENUE.

Amount of the net produce of the revenue of Great Britain in the years ending 5th April 1818	1819
20,235,631l.	23,125,815l. increase 2,890,184l.

The Bank of England has a capital of 14,000,000 sterling. The building covers an extent of several acres, and employs 1100 clerks; about 50 more than are at present occupied by our government in the public offices at Washington.—Colum. Centinel.

#### MANCHESTER MARKET.

The market for manufactured goods is extremely dull, and however low the prices of goods may be induced to offer, buyers offer still lower prices; purchases in consequence irregular and uncertain, and trade on the whole is mending.

A Dutch mail arrived this morning, which contains some particulars of a pretended plot discovered in November last, which had for its object to seize on the person of the emperor Alexander, and compel him to sign a proclamation to the French to recall Napoleon, and to proclaim his son emperor. That such nonsense should be inserted in public prints, is scarcely credible.

Mr. Grattan has postponed his motion on the Catholic cause until the 3d of May; in the day before the question will come on in the house of lords.

The death of the marchioness of Townshend is a subject of universal lamentation; she was a beautiful and amiable lady, and fulfilled most admirably every duty of life. It is asserted that in some parts of Wiltshire, farmers now hire their laborers at four pence a day; double as much more is paid them by the market gardeners of London.

Mr. Davis has been taken from the theatre, and has sailed for the United States.

Lieutenants Bice and Greig are appointed to the Hedon and Crisp, fitted at Deptford for service in the Pacific, through Davis's Straits.

Strawberries, in what are termed thumb-potatoes, were exposed for sale in the fruit shops of Covent Garden Market on the 8th April, at 3s. 6d. the bush, containing about a dozen strawberries.

A very striking proof of the mildness of the season, is, the great forwardness of several bunches of grapes in Mrs. Thornton's garden at Kirkdale, and in a gentleman's garden at Kirkdale, a thrush's nest with four young ones nearly fledged, is now to be seen.

Bank tokens are no longer allowed to pass; persons offering them in payment are subject to a penalty.—When we take into consideration the late extraordinary measure passed in parliament, we can scarcely repress a smile at the foregoing ridiculous prohibition.

#### Domestic Intelligence.

##### PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT OF UPPER CANADA.

York, 7th June, 1819.  
This day at two o'clock, his excellency the lieutenant governor proceeded in state to the legislative council chamber, where being seated on the throne, and the hon. the speaker and the house of assembly being present, his excellency opened the session with the following SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

Many considerations having determined me to call you together before the close of the year, I decided on the present season as probably more convenient to you than a later period.

Since you were last assembled in this place, little alteration appears to have taken place in the state of his majesty's indisposition.

In that interval, his august consort, the queen of the united kingdom has closed a long life; illustrious for the exemplary discharge of every public and private duty.

His royal highness the prince regent, in behalf of his majesty, has authorised the governors of both Canadas to bestow lands on certain of the provincial navy and militia, which served during the late war.

Recent purchases from the natives have been so far effected, as will enable me to set apart adequate tracts in the several districts, to accommodate such of their respective inhabitants as are within the limit of the royal

instruction. I do not consider myself justified in extending this mark of approbation to any of the individuals who composed the late convention of delegates; the proceedings of which were properly the subjects of your severe animadversion.

The royal assent has been given to the establishment of a provincial bank, but from some delay it did not arrive in time for promulgation, within the period limited by law; the form of a re-enactment will therefore be necessary to render it available.

At the termination of the last session, it was recommended to you to bestow your attention on an amendment of the road laws.—At present, after a nearer acquaintance with the state of the country, I am more deeply impressed with the importance of that subject.

It is painful to observe, how serious an evil the neglected grants of an early date are presenting to the actual inhabitants of the province. The exemption of any land belonging to individuals from the operation of the assessment law, is found to be detrimental. A new bill so modified as to protect the land from sale by distress until due notice can be given to the proprietors, will receive his majesty's assent.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I shall direct the proper officer to lay before you the public accounts of the receipt and expenditure, with estimates for the ensuing year.

Honorable Gentlemen, and

Gentlemen,

The growth of the province in population and wealth, justifies a reasonable expectation that the measures adopted to encourage it will receive your fullest support. And I must suggest for your consideration the expediency of affording the new settlers, unavoidably situated more remote from the great lakes and rivers, an easy approach to market.

Your attention will doubtless be given to such laws about to expire, as may require to be continued.

Some parts of the province not accessible by land, it is my purpose to visit during the present season for navigation, that I may become personally acquainted with every part of the population committed to my care.

From the Western Star.

To his grace CHARLES duke of Richmond, Lennox and Aubigny, knight of the most noble order of the garter, governor in chief, &c. &c. &c.

May it please your Grace,

We, the ministers and elders of the Presbytery of the Canadas, assembled in the Presbyterian church Brockville, Elizabethtown, on Tuesday the 15th day of January, 1819, considering it to be our duty as a public body to acknowledge our cheerful obedience to the government under which we enjoy so many blessings, and to express our sentiments of loyalty, beg permission to approach your grace in the following humble address, and to state unto you our principles and purposes.

We have been educated in the bosom of the Presbyterian church, the greater part of us in the mother country, where we exercised our ministry with some degree of acceptance. We have left the land of our nativity, and by the providence of God have arrived in this distant province of the British empire, with a view to extend the knowledge and glorious kingdom of Jesus Christ our Lord in the salvation of men.

We wish explicitly to state to your grace, that our association which has been but recently formed, is free from all political plans and intrigues; that our only motive and its sole object, is the promotion of the peace and happiness of all classes of the community.—That in connexion with the sacred scriptures, we strictly adhere to the doctrines, method of discipline, and manner of church government, as laid down in the catechisms and confession of faith of the assembly of divines at Westminster. We have no cause to please but the cause of God and truth; and have no interest to promote but the interest of the kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the immortal welfare of our fellow subjects; and accordingly renounce all party names and distinctions except that of Presbyterians.

We profess allegiance to the king and constitution of Great Britain, and to the laws and government of this country; and shall never cease to promote her prosperity and welfare. We esteem it one of the greatest blessings we enjoy, that Divine Providence has placed us under governors eminent for wisdom, piety and prudence; and that we live under a government so stable and secure, and so congenial to the best interests of mankind. We cannot but anticipate, under the patronage of your grace, that these provinces will rise and shine; that the light of the truth will burst through the clouds of ignorance and irreligion, and will introduce a glorious and illustrious day. Long may your valuable life be preserved, and may you ever continue a firm friend to piety and morality, as the two great pillars of our political fabric.

Knowing the amiable character of your grace, and of his excellency sir Peregrine Maitland, when we received the pleasing intelligence that such illustrious personages were appointed to the government of these provinces, we were transported with joy, and looked forward to a scene of happiness and prosperity under their benign influence and protection. And we are happy to find that our hopes are likely to be realized.

That your grace may long be preserved as a blessing to British North America.—That you may continue to enjoy the esteem and approbation of all good men, to which you are so much entitled, shall ever be the fervent prayer of this presbytery.

Signed in our name and by our appointment,

ROBERT McDOWELL,

Moderator.

WM. SMART,

Clerk of Presbytery

The above address having been forwarded by the Rev. William Smart, the following was received in answer:

Castle of St. Lewis, QUEBEC, 19th March, 1819.

Sir,—I have not failed to lay your letter of the 22d ult. before his grace the governor in chief, together with the address which accompanied it from the ministers and elders of the presbytery of the Canadas; in reply to which I am commanded to request you will be pleased to inform them, that it has afforded his grace great satisfaction receiving from so respectable a body, this strong mark of their attachment to the king and constitution of Great Britain. I am also to request, you will at the same time convey to the presbytery, his grace's best thanks for the flattering expressions they are pleased to make use of towards him. I have the honor to be,

Sir,  
Your most obed't servt,  
J. READY.

Rev. Wm. Smart.

Dr. Baldwin, Surgeon of the frigate Congress, has decided the question relating to the native country of the *Potato*. He found this valuable vegetable growing abundantly on the north side of the Rio de la Plata, in wild, uncultivated situations, and its utility unknown to the inhabitants. Also, among the rocks of Monte Video.—W. Star.

Montreal, June 1.

Our correspondent at Quebec has politely favored us with London papers to the 12th, and Liverpool to the 16th of April, of which we have given an entertaining abstract. One of the Paris papers of Wednesday last mentions upon the authority of letters received from Italy, that a conspiracy had been formed in Mantua to administer poison to the emperor of Austria, who is at present in that country, and that the plot was discovered but half an hour before the time appointed for carrying it into execution. Several of the society called Carbonari, who are numerous in the Austrian states of Italy, and against whom the court of Vienna some time since determined to enforce very severe measures, are said to have been arrested as being implicated in this conspiracy.

FOR THE UPPER CANADA HERALD.

#### THE PROMPTER.—No. IX.

It was a fundamental principle of the feudal system, on which the British constitution is founded, that all the land of the nation is to be considered as originally vested in the crown, and can be held, by private subjects, only by grants from the crown, and assignments of those grants, by a regular chain of conveyance down to the present proprietor. The title is in the king, until a patent is executed by his representative; and it remains in the last grantee, notwithstanding any bond, covenant, or other contract for a deed.

When this province was first settled, the settlers were allowed to purchase land, and went into possession of several lots before the government had in such a state of preparation as to issue the patents. Transfers of course took place, without any legal title. Such transfers were evidenced by bonds or contracts for titles, accompanied in most instances by actual possession. A practice thus introduced from necessity, became habitual and common; and was continued through the influence of precedent and habit, after the necessity for it ceased. It is to this day a frequent mode of proceeding. Many bargains and sales, as they are improperly termed, are effected by bonds or agreements for conveyance at some future time, without any present deeds of conveyance. Some cases, this form of proceeding is inevitable; but it is much more frequent than is necessary; and its frequency may be accounted for historically, but not justified as prudent or proper. It is attended with many difficulties, and productive of much evil.—Deaths intervene. Descents are cast upon infants. Judgments create liens upon the land. Parties change their minds. Lawsuits, disapprovements, delays, losses, frauds, and failures of titles, are among the natural consequences. These inconveniences, when pointed out to persons concerned, are generally admitted; yet the same persons will go on and do so again, because they have done so before, and because they see others do the same. So hard, and almost impossible, is it to change a general popular usage. Is not this all true? Yes, responds the reader, in his own mind. Pray, gentle reader, have you a deed of the lot or ground, on which you are expending your labor or your money, or depending for the inheritance of your children? If not, let the Prompter, like Nathan of old, whisper in your ear: "thou art the man;"—Yes, the very one, for whose particular benefit this admonition is intended. So, don't apply it to your neighbor; but go, or send by the very first opportunity to York, and take out the patent of your lot from the proper office; or, if your bargain for the land was with a private individual, go to him, and get his deed, in exchange for the bond you hold against him. When that is done, the Prompter may call again, and converse with you upon another matter, in which you are interested.

The Herald.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1819.

Agricultural Societies are multiplying throughout the British Provinces, and the United States. Some of them have public aid from government. Others are entirely supported by the subscriptions of members and the donations of liberal minded men. They have already given a general impulse to agricultural exertions and improvements. The benefits which they produce are indirect and consequential, as well as direct and immediate.—They are rendering agriculture and those engaged in it, fashionable. Many husbands, besides the actual members of such societies, are stimulated, by their influence, to exert themselves and improve their farms, from a principle of emulation, as well as interest. All this tends to the public good, and ought to be encouraged by every friend to his country. It gives

pleasure to Province.

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