

our thousands of fellow-subjects who are not so fortunately situated as ourselves, insultingly tell her we want no more of her, we heed them not, and that we will be over to her great rival to strengthen her power, and weaken the power of the kindest nation upon earth? I feel, my brethren, that I must not continue an enumeration of England's actions that tend to uphold her goodness and glory, when I appeal to you, for I already hear our tens of thousands shouting to the appeal already made—"Never! never!"

But I do entreat you, let not the present trifling and momentary ebullition of feeling, and the depression of trade, move you to any other action than a firm resolve to suppress this cry of annexation! Let the world see that our filial affection is not to be destroyed by a little adversity! Let the world know, that it is our opinion, that when interest is taken as the basis of loyalty, it can only produce anarchy as it has done. Let it be known that we as Orangemen, cannot consent so to trifle with our allegiance to the Protestant throne of Great Britain, under any alteration of circumstances, under any adverse fortunes. Let it be known, that our opinions, our principles, bind us at all hazards to the integrity of the empire, and though we reside in the colonies, we regard ourselves as sons and subjects of Great Britain. That in our advocacy of political principles, we stand up for the nation, and not for the colonies alone, and that we regard the Mother Country as sovereign and supreme, and we feel that her authority has been exercised with great moderation and consideration, and with a desire to improve our condition. I do not enunciate to you any doctrine or principle that is either new or strange to our Order, I merely bring before you those which we have ever advocated, and I think there can be no doubt, that we are bound to maintain and obey them in opposition to all else. The whole of our system inculcates the divine sentiment of patriotism, and strikes at the root of selfishness, though it be encircled by boundless wealth. Let us take our stand by its side, and never but with life abandon it,—not because we hope our Mother Country will enrich us—not because we feel she will protect us, but because her glories, her institutions "were the first our ears, eyes, tastes, had perceived or tasted, heard, seen or inhaled."

I know it is your wish, and therefore I desire to impress it upon the public mind, that our object is not to avenge the past, but to provide against the future. We must labour to gain converts to our constitutional proceedings and doctrines, and avoid the snares of our enemies; and I am sure you will one and all concede, that there will be but little probability of bringing converts to our opinions, if we do not respect them ourselves. Not indeed that I anticipate any abandonment of principle on the part of any member of our Order, but I place this view of the question before you, to show you how speedily a body like ours would lose its influence were it to abandon only for a limited period, the noble and patriotic principles which have ever been the guide of its members.

I look upon this address calling for annexation, as an infringement of the rights of the subjects, because it at once withdraws that respect for the power of the sovereign, which it is a duty, as well as a privilege to maintain, and lays bare to cavil an admitted important safeguard to the Constitution. We have the right to petition, to appeal—but we have no right to demand the abrogation of the chief estate of the realm, without laying ourselves open to the charge of treason against the whole. With us, this view of the subject is more imperative, because we have of "our own free will" sworn to maintain the connection; and therefore, I need not point out to you, the extraordinary responsibility which rests upon us as a body, in a crisis of this nature. We cannot fail to see, that the best interests of the country are sacrificed by the intemperate demand now made, and it must prove detrimental, in the highest degree, to our prosperity and welfare. If the country is suffering and struggling under serious commercial difficulties, then should our energies be doubled, and a more powerful exertion made to draw forth our vast resources; without which, we can only expect a continuation of troubles. Those colonies have risen superior to such difficulties before, but it was by a united effort in the right direction and in which we were encouraged by the parent state from a belief in the firmness and steadiness of our principles. But if, in addition to commercial embarrassments, we are to add the consequences attendant upon the suggestion of a change in our political and national existence, it requires not the spirit of a Soothsayer to declare, that our troubles have only commenced. Therefore, my brethren, I say again to you—our course is clear and appointed. No matter what may be the clamours of the ignorant, nor the projects of the wrong-minded—and still less the craft of the vicious, this burst of democratic turbulence must be resisted; and all revolutionary projects, whether made under the professions of loyalty or otherwise, we are bound by our solemn obligations to oppose.

There are occasions when the retirement of our Order must be laid aside, and I am sure there can be none of greater importance, than that which involves our allegiance to our God, our Country and our Queen.

Your friend and Brother,

G. BENJAMIN, G. M.

Belleville, 19th Oct., 1849.

REPORT OF THE SAINT JOHN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

(Continued from first page.)

The fair, from the day being wet, was not well attended. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, was pleased to honour the Show with his presence, and minutely examining the Cattle and articles exhibited. Four samples of wheat were shown; one weighed 61lbs. and two over sixty. The oats weighed 46, 44, and 42lbs. per bushel. The turnips, carrots, and mangold wurtzel, and potatoes were very superior, and pronounced by the judges as good as could be raised in any country. There is but little butter and no cheese made in this county. In the appendix will be found directions for making both in the most approved methods.

For the purpose of encouraging the production of these articles in the county, the Directors would recommend that large premiums be offered for the largest quantities of good quality made in any one dairy.

The Directors have to report in relation to the crops in the county for the past season, that hay, except on the marshes, was very light, probably not half an average, very little wheat was grown, but where tried, yielded abundantly without rust or weevil. Barley has not been successfully cultivated, probably because the land has not been put in a proper condition for it, that crop requiring a very fine tilth. Oats have been a good crop. Buckwheat has been extensively grown and yielded abundantly. Potatoes kept quite free from the disease until fully grown and nearly ripe, and, in general, were not affected at all. In some sections however, especially in the vicinity of this city, the disease made its appearance with all its former virulence. After blackening the tops, it struck down to the roots, and in different fields from a quarter to a half were lost. It appears, therefore, that the disease has not yet taken its departure, and that the potatoe ought not to be depended on as the only root crop.

Carrots and turnips have been extensively cultivated, and notwithstanding the extreme drought, are generally a good crop. Mangold wurtzel and parsnips, although better adapted to cows and pigs, and quite as easily raised as the others, have not been much tried. The English horse bean, or Holigoland bean, has been grown for several years on one or two farms, and when planted early have ripened and yielded well. The white bean and field pea have scarcely been tried, which is to be regretted, as they are a sure and profitable crop, and excellent alike for the table and as food for cattle.

The Directors appointed Committees to organize branch Societies in the different parishes of the county; one only has been formed at Loch Lomond which has been conducted with much spirit; a report of its transactions is appended.

An oat-mill, grist-mill, and carding-mill, has been established at Golden Grove, to which the Directors have awarded a premium of £25, as advertised.

An application was made to this Society, by persons interested in the coloured population at Loch Lomond, to assist in stimulating these people to help themselves. Seeds were distributed amongst them, from funds furnished by a gentleman in England, through Mr. Duval, of the Normal School here, and premiums offered with a good result. Almost every family have grown more or less vegetables where none were grown before, to the extent of from 10 to 50 bushels to each, and have found out that they can do something. Their crops were surprising, considering that their only implement is a short hoe, and that they use little or no manure. The Directors would recommend that a small sum be expended in clearing up and ploughing a field near the school house, where the children may be trained to habits of industry, and be shown the effects of proper cultivation. The present teacher, if properly supported, is likely to effect much improvement amongst them. Their land being very fertile, and their wants few, they require only to be taught industry and self-dependence to prevent them from continuing a burden on the community.

The Directors have as yet been unsuccessful in their endeavours to introduce a bone mill into the county. This is to be regretted, as, besides those wasted, large quantities of bones are annually shipped off to be returned to us in the shape of cabbages and flour. Perhaps the legislature may be induced to import one and have it worked in the Provincial Penitentiary.

The Directors have had under their notice the way in which grain and vegetables are measured in this Province and have concluded that the present mode is objectionable, and causes much loss and inconvenience, and would recommend that a petition be presented to the Legislature, praying that a law be passed to cause all grain and vegetables to be sold by weight. Other Societies are requested to examine into the matter, and if they concur in the opinion, to co-operate with this Society in bringing the subject before the Legislature.

(To be continued.)

From the Montreal Gazette.

MR. GOWAN AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Montreal, 21st June, 1850.

SIR,—I have the honor, by command of the Governor General, to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Petition preferring charges against you, as also a copy of the handbill therein referred to, and am to request you to furnish me, for the information of His Excellency, with any remarks upon the said charges which you may deem it necessary to offer.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. LESLIE, Secretary.

Ogle R. Gowan, Esq., Brockville, C. W.

BROCKVILLE, 25th June, 1849.

SIR,—This day on my return from Toronto, after an absence for some time from home, I received your letter of the 21st.

Before entering into "any remarks for the information of His Excellency," upon the enclosure, which you were pleased to convey to me, I have to request that you will furnish me with the names of the petitioners who have preferred the charges you alluded to.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your most obedient servant
OGLE R. GOWAN.

The Hon. James Leslie Provincial Secretary, &c., &c.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Montreal, 28th June, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor, by command of the Governor General, to transmit to you herewith, in compliance with

the request contained in your letter of the 25th instant, a list of the names appended to the Petition, of which a copy accompanied my communication to you under date the 21st instant.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. LESLIE, Secretary.

Ogle R. Gowan, Esq., Brockville, C. W.

BROCKVILLE, 20th June, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, just received, conveying to me the names of the "Officers, non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the 2nd Battalion of Leeds Militia," who subscribed the Petition to His Excellency, bearing date the 5th of June, 1849.

Of the 36 Officers and 69 non-commissioned Officers, of which the Battalion consists, I find that 3 of the former and 2 of the latter class only have subscribed the document referred to. Of the remaining 179 names purporting to be those of Privates, some are I believe aliens, and a very few are actual militia men under my command.

As regards the statements made in the Petition, I have simply to say that, some of them are untrue, and others that are true, are much discoloured, and that His Excellency should deem them of such a character, as to merit enquiry, I am quite ready at any moment, to appear before a Court Martial, or other proper Tribunal, to answer to any accusations, for a breach of Military regulations or discipline, with which I may be charged.

If I have been guilty of an infraction of the Civil Law, I am also ready to meet the accusation, before any legal Tribunal authorised to try and decide upon its merits.

For my political opinions, I am responsible only to my country, and to my conscience, and while I acknowledge no right in any man, to interrogate me regarding them, or to punish me for entertaining them, I am free to admit, that unswerving homage to Law, and entire devotion to Britain, have ever governed their exercise.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,
OGLE R. GOWAN.

The Hon. James Leslie, Provincial Secretary, &c., &c.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Montreal 14th July, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., and am commanded by his Excellency the Governor General to say that you have widely mistaken the purport of my communication of 21st ult. His Excellency claims no right to interrogate any of her Majesty's subjects regarding their political opinions, but when a gentleman holding her Majesty's Commission of the Peace, and a command in the Militia of the Province, is directly complained against, upon a specified statement of facts, as having publicly made himself a party in a misdemeanour of the character stated in the complaint, his Excellency feels that his duty to his Sovereign obliges him to require such explanations respecting those facts, as the circumstances may afford.

His Excellency, on referring to the complaint contained in the petition, which has led to this correspondence, finds you are charged, first, with having publicly circulated hand-bills calling upon the inhabitants of the town of Brockville to assemble for the purpose of witnessing the burning in effigy of the Representative of the Sovereign, for having given the Royal Assent to a Bill passed by both Houses of the Provincial Parliament.

Secondly, with having publicly taken a prominent part in the procession formed for the purpose of carrying that object into effect, by walking at the head of that procession, and, thirdly, with having addressed the persons assembled for such a purpose, justifying and encouraging the unlawful act they were about to commit.

His Excellency commands me further to add that the observations contained in your letter in regard to the part said to have been taken by you in the illegal proceedings referred to, and which, being of recent occurrence, must be fresh in your recollection, does not afford such explanation as His Excellency has a right to expect from one to whom it has been her Majesty's pleasure to commit the honourable and important offices which you now hold.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. LESLIE, Secretary.

Ogle R. Gowan, Esq., Brockville, C. W.

BROCKVILLE, 16th July, 1849.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., and have to say in reply, that while I am pleased to find that his Excellency denies "all claim to interrogate her Majesty's subjects regarding their political opinions," I regret that your letter should have appeared to me, to convey an intimation, for the expression of an opinion, the tendency of which could scarcely have been other than of a political cast.

I feel it due to my character, as an old and sworn Conservator of the Peace, in language the most emphatic and decided, to deny that I have ever, in public or in private, upon any occasion or in any place, "made myself a party to a misdemeanour" and if his Excellency believes I have done so, it is but an act of common justice to me—a justice freely awarded to the worst culprit, who denies a crime with which he may be charged—that he should have a fair trial before the tribunals of his country, and be proved guilty before being condemned.

Denying then, as I do, all participation, not only in legal, but even moral guilt, in the transaction referred to, and expressing my entire willingness to go before any legal tribunal, to answer to whatever charges may be brought against me, I regret that it is not in my power, either in justice to my own character, or to the ordinary rights which every British subject possesses, to afford further or other explanation to his Lordship, and which explanation might be hereafter tortured to my disadvantage.