

COLONIAL.

LOWER CANADA.

MONTREAL, Nov. 6, 1892.

GREAT PUBLIC MEETING AT THE BRITISH AMERICAN HOTEL.

In consequence of the requisition which we issued in our last number, a very respectable and numerous body of our fellow citizens assembled on Saturday last in the large rooms of the British American Hotel. Long before one o'clock the hour appointed, many had already arrived, and at the time of the chair being taken, we believe there were more than 500 present. Scarcely ever has a meeting been held in Montreal, where so numerous and intelligent a body presented themselves to discuss public measures.

HORATIO GATES, Esq. having been called to the chair by general acclamation, stated to the meeting—that in the few instances where he had been honored with a call of his fellow citizens to preside at public meetings, he never came forward with more reluctance and diffidence than on the present occasion, not because he did not feel a warm interest in promoting the object for which they were convened, but because he felt incapable of presiding in a creditable or satisfactory manner to himself or to them. He, however, threw himself on their indulgence and would do the best in his power. The object of the meeting was to take its sense on the propriety of disavowing any participation in the sentiments contained in the resolutions passed at certain assemblies lately held in this district, aiming at a change in the Constitution of this Province, and to take into consideration the expediency of presenting a loyal address to His Majesty. (Cheers.) In a free country like this, the right of the people to meet, discuss and scrutinize the measures of the Government, and, if abuses existed, to petition for redress, was unquestioned, and should be held sacred; but when under pretence of the existence of grievances, meetings were called and resolutions passed, breathing a spirit calculated to estrange the affections, and weaken the loyalty of the people, aiming at a change in the Constitution and Government, it was time for, and it was the duty of the true friends of the country and Government, to arouse from their apathy and break their sentiments in a voice that would be heard and respected. (Cheers.) Such a change in the Government, as he feared some restless spirits desired would entail a grievance on the country which, compared to any that now existed, would be as a mountain to an ant hill. Any one well acquainted with the great body of the French Canadians, who were candid, must admit, admire and appreciate their very many estimable qualities, (cheers) among which, their love of country, their quiet, peaceable disposition, their loyalty, were conspicuous; [cheers], and there was no danger of their going out of the path of their duty, unless deceived and led astray; but if among them, there were some of the better educated, possessing talents and a standing in society, which gave them a commanding influence over their more unlettered countrymen, but who from mistaken views or something worse, were endeavoring to instill into their minds principles at variance with their security, prosperity and happiness, it was satisfactory to know that there were very many others, high minded, well educated, possessed of superior talents and influence, who were entering themselves (and he trusted successfully) to counteract the pernicious influence of bad counsel. (Great cheering.) The population of this province was made up from a great number of countries, but he took it as undisputed principle of justice, that whoever was admitted to be a British subject (no matter what country gave him birth) was entitled to all the immunities of a natural born subject (cheers); in return for which he owed an allegiance to the Government which thus protected his life and property, and imparted all its blessings to him; and viewing with the same confidence all others naturalized, as entitled to the character of peaceable, well disposed, loyal subjects, as he claimed for that portion who came from his native country, yet being more intimately acquainted with the latter, and knowing the sentiments and views of the great majority of them, he did not hesitate to say, that if the government placed a generous confidence in them, and dispensed her favours and patronage with even-handed justice, they would not be found wanting in the fulfilment of their duties; and if a crisis arrived (which God forbid) when their physical aid was required, they would turn out *en masse*, rallying round the Constitution and Government—supporting to the utmost of their power, all its just pretensions. (Loud and continued cheering.)

JOHN SAMUEL McCORD, Esq. was requested to act as Secretary.

JAMES CHARLES GRANT, Esq. in rising to propose the first resolution, felt extremely happy that the recent proceedings at the late meetings in the country parishes had at length arrested the attention of his fellow citizens. They were that day convened to counteract by their solemn declarations, the changes in the Constitution of the country which were contemplated at those meetings—changes which he had little hesitation in saying, would tend to subvert and destroy that constitution and eventually lead to a separation of this colony from the mother country. When Great Britain legislated for her colonies, she acted with a liberality which had ever distinguished her, and in framing the constitution for Canada, a glance at the map must have proved sufficient to satisfy her statesmen that it might yet be made the resting place and habitation for thousands and millions of her superabundant population, and they gave her a government liberal in every one of its provisions. The wisest statesmen which had ever adorned the councils of Britain had lent their assistance to frame that constitution which we now enjoy—a constitution modelled after her own, and founded on the same principles as that which had long been the glory of her sons, and the envy of the world—the pure source from which all the nations of the world, pretending to freedom, had drawn their first hallowed cup of liberty. Our system of government was a perfect blending of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. As a substitute for the aristocratic branch, the legislative Council had been formed. The celebrated Fox, whose democratic tendencies were well known, had himself supported the necessity of an aristocratic branch, and had declared that no Government was fit for British subjects to live under, which did not contain its due weight of aristocracy, because he considered it to be the proper poise of the constitution—the balance that equalized and ameliorated the powers of the two other extreme branches, and gave firmness and stability to the whole. (Cheers.)—The same distinguished statesman said, he could not but testify his heartfelt satisfaction, that the people of the United States, while breaking off their connection with the mother country, had preserved so much of the form of Government, under which they had previously lived, for the present constitution of the United States was essentially founded on monarchical, aristocratic,

and democratical principles, but differently modified to that of England. It has been often stated, that when the present constitution was granted to this province the people of Canada were unprepared for such a gift, and that there existed no materials within the country, from which a Legislative Council could be created. If such statements were then true, they could no longer apply. The present constitution is well adapted to our wants, and has become suited to the country, under its increased population, and augmented resources and wealth. He contended that there were within this Province ample materials from which an aristocracy could be drawn—not an aristocracy in its odious sense, that of birth alone, but one such as is described by that celebrated statesman, Mr. Burke, in his *Appeal from the New and Old Whigs*. He remarks, that a true natural aristocracy is not a separate interest in the state, or separable from it. To be bred in a place of estimation; to see nothing low and sordid from one's infancy; to be taught to respect one's self; to be habituated to the densoir inspection of the public eye; to look early to public opinion; to have leisure to read; to reflect; to converse; to be able to draw the court and attention of the wise and learned wherever they are to be found; to be able to take a large view of the wide spread and infinitely diversified combination of men and affairs; to be led to a guarded and regulated conduct, from a sense that you are considered as an instructor of your fellow citizens in their highest concerns; to be employed as an administrator of the law and justice, and to be thereby amongst the first benefactors to mankind; to be a professor of high science, or of liberal and ingenious art; to be amongst the rich traders, who from their success are presumed to have sharp and vigorous understandings, and to possess the virtues of diligence, order, constancy, and regularity; and to have commutative justice. These are the circumstances of men, (said Mr. Burke) that form what I should call a natural aristocracy, without which there is no nation. Men qualified in the manner he had thus described, form in nature, as she operates in the common modification, the leading, guiding and governing part. It is the soul to the body, without which man does not exist. To give therefore, no more importance in the social order to such description of men than that of so many units, is an honorable usurpation. The elements of such an aristocracy at present exists in Canada and is daily increasing. Was it expedient he would ask, to change the Constitution under which they had hitherto enjoyed such unlimited freedom and attained such unparalleled prosperity? (No, no, from all quarters.) If the Legislative Council were to be made elective by the people we should be engrafting a republican institution upon a monarchical establishment, instead of amending the composition of our Government, the proposed measure, if carried into effect, would totally subvert it—the poise of the constitution would be thereby destroyed. The Government instead of consisting of three branches, would then be composed only of two. The Council and Assembly might it is true, sit in different apartments, but yet they would form only one body—having a common source, they would be formed of the same materials. An elective Council would cease to be a separate estate. The proceedings of such a Legislature would be marked by violence, passion and despotism—as was formerly the case in some of the governments of our republican neighbours. If we make the Council elective we shall next be called upon to elect our Governor, which would be followed by the introduction of anarchy, and lead to a separation of this Province from the parent state. The appointment of the Governor by the Colony would be destructive of the supremacy of the mother country. The Constitution we now enjoy has ever been respected, and by none more so than by those who were now endeavouring to subvert it. It must be recollected that in 1827, petitions were circulated freely through Lower Canada, and that the petitioners were numerous, praying that the Constitution might be continued to them unaltered. If the people of Canada were originally unprepared for such a government it was otherwise now; the mother country acted like a kind parent and anticipated our future growth. (Cheers.) She gave us a suit of clothes much too large for us in our infancy, but to which we have grown up; it fits us now that we are advancing towards manhood much better than what it then did. He could not fail to notice the resolutions lately passed at the village of Debartzch. It had there been solemnly resolved, "That whatever may be the views of Great Britain, in causing a considerable number of her excess population to be transported to her North American Colonies, it is always certain that these excessive emigrations are dangerous and expensive especially for the colonies where these emigrants disembark, who often bring them nothing but their ills, the extreme of indigence and pestiferous diseases, necessitating the support of the Provincial Treasury, and the commiseration of charitable persons; which becomes, as regards this country, an indirect tax imposed by Great Britain." That England will, in any case, have to justify herself, for having suffered so considerable an emigration at a time when she was under the frightful influence of the cholera, which by this means has been introduced into this colony, the climate of which is the most healthy in all America, and has covered it with mourning and desolation. (Laughter.) Mr. Grant observed that as those resolutions were only calculated to excite risibility, he would pass them by without comment. But he would make a few observations on another of this infamous string of resolutions, which was conceived in these words "That it is important that this meeting should declare itself distinctly, upon the present composition of the Legislative Council, and that it should not hesitate to resolve, that so long as the nomination of members to the said Council shall depend upon the will and power of the Executive of this Province, this intermediate body will be always dependant upon the power which created it, and will be always in direct opposition to the interests of the people and indifferent to the protection of their rights and privileges." It must be admitted that in 1827 some grievances did exist in the Province which called for remedy; yet these very same patriots, in addressing His Majesty at that period to have those grievances examined and done away with recorded their satisfaction with the present Constitution in these terms:—"Called by that act to the full enjoyment of British constitutional liberty, and become the depositary of our own rights under the protection of the mother country, we contracted the solemn obligation of preserving inviolate the sacred deposit, and of transmitting it to our descendants, such as it was confided to us by the great men who then presided over the destinies of your powerful and glorious empire." (Cheers.) And they concluded their petition to the King with the following prayer. "We most humbly implore your Majesty to take this our petition into your most gracious consideration, to exercise your Royal prerogative, so that your Majesty's faithful subjects in this Province be relieved from the aforesaid abuses

and grievances, and justice be done in the premises, that your petitioners may be maintained and secured in the full enjoyment of the Constitution and Government, as established by the Act passed in the 31st year of the reign of our late Sovereign your Royal father, without any alteration thereof whatsoever." (Cheers.) If grievances did then exist, Great Britain has certainly gone beyond the usual limits of liberality in redressing them. She has resigned to them the absolute control of the revenues—the composition of the Council was evil in 1827, the Government has since called to that body, men of high standing in the country, independent of the Government, as well in fortune as in principle, and has infused into it a greater share of independence. (Cheers.) Since 1827 one placeman had been named, and he felt convinced that not another would be called to take his seat there. If, in 1827, these patriots were then so very much satisfied with the existing Constitution, what new light has shone upon their hitherto enlightened minds, what new apostle of liberty has been preaching to them doctrines likely to subvert that which they were then so anxious to maintain unaltered? Why come forward now to destroy that Constitution, with which they had so recently declared their unbounded satisfaction? What monstrous inconsistency!! But in all countries, there were some ambitious and restless beings, whose delight it seemed to be to keep up an excitement and thus maintain a studied popularity—[loud cheering]—it was with this purpose these meetings had been got up. Where had the patriots shown their gratitude for the concessions made to them, where the return for the control of the revenue yielded to them on the full faith and expectation, that a permanent Civil List, limited, indeed, in amount, would be granted by the Assembly? Thus, reasonable expectation has not been realized, for the Assembly, after it had obtained control over the whole revenue of the Province, ungratefully refused to grant that List as demanded. (Cheers.) They all knew that the theory of Government might be made the subject of fanaticism as well as any dogma of religion. He conceived it to be the duty of every good subject to denounce the new theory of making the Council elective, and endeavour to arrest the circulation of the mischievous doctrines promulgated by the assemblies in question. They were now called upon to decide whether they were desirous of preserving the Constitution as it now exists, under which they had enjoyed personal freedom, protection of property, equality in the eye of the law, and all the advantages flowing from the most perfect form of Government, or accept in its stead of any new fangled Constitution, which certain pretended patriots might create in their imagination. If they preferred that under which they had hitherto enjoyed so much prosperity, they would certainly join him in the Resolution which he then intended to propose, which was—

That this meeting, seeing the dangerous consequences which might flow from proceedings which have taken place, tending to mislead the loyal inhabitants of this Province, consider it a duty to use all lawful means in their power, for counteracting the designs of the ill informed and disaffected, and for preserving the form of Government and the institutions which they now enjoy.

The motion having been seconded by Dr. Arnold, was carried by one dissentient voice.

Mr. JOSUA BELL, the person who dissented having been loudly called for to come forward, and give his reasons amidst great confusion, stated that he had no intention to speak on the occasion, nor was he at all prepared to address so very large and respectable a meeting of his fellow-citizens. He had been forced to come forward—he dissented from the Resolution, and had been called to explain himself. He merely wished all evils to be purged away from our constitution, but could not agree in supporting the present formation of the Council. (Groans and hisses.) He would not trespass on their time, but asked to be allowed to retire from the meeting peaceably. (Groans intermingled with hisses.)

JEES QUELSESS, Esq. then came forward and said, that in proposing the second resolution he would be very brief, as he did not profess to be accustomed to public speaking, but would endeavour shortly to explain his views according to his ability. In the year 1827 he had had the honour of presiding at the great constitutional meeting, when the greatest portion of the inhabitants of the country sought for a redress of grievances, and prayed that no change in the constitution should take place. The same resolution which had been discussed in 1827, and he now would propose the very same to them in 1892. His politics had never altered, and he hoped never would; they were the same that day as they were then, when grievances did exist, and when the composition of the Council was not so efficient as at present. In 1822, with a numerous body of real grievances to be reformed, he had joined his countrymen in saying to His late Majesty, "that the statute 31 Geo. III. c. 31, modelled upon the constitution of the parent state by some of the best and wisest of her statesmen, provides sufficient powers for the remedying of abuses, redressing of grievances, allaying discontents, and promoting the general welfare of the Province"—and had concluded in praying from His Majesty, "that the constitution and form of government of this Province, as by the aforementioned statute happily established, may be preserved inviolate to your petitioners and their posterity." What more could they desire, than a constitution which provides sufficient powers to remedy abuses, redress grievances, allay discontents, and promote the general welfare of the Province? Can they be the real friends of the country, who would seek to destroy a constitution which can produce such happy results? Is it because that our grievances now are more numerous than at that period? Have not, on the contrary, the greatest portion of them been redressed? Does not the present government shew every disposition to remedy these which remains to be redressed? Why should we now desire to alter the constitution? If any abuses still exist, they are not existent in the constitution itself, but are inherent to every form of Government, however perfect in itself. An elective council would be nothing more than adding a few more members to the Assembly, and be dependant upon them. It never could be as independent as under the present system, but must be governed solely by the opinions of those in the Lower House, through whose influence they would most likely be elected. It appeared to him that the government had acted very fairly and impartially in the choice of those lately called to the Council since that period, and that in the names of those elected for the Council by the Government, he found much better names than those chosen by the patriots for the Assembly. He would name Mr. Viger, whom all admitted to be an independent man, and he could equally cite the late Mr. De Beaujeu, or Messrs. Gail, Hat, Mollet, St. Ours, Duchesnay, M. Gilly, Molson, Latour, Malhot, Desaulles, Jo-

hette, Rocheblave, and Harwood, who were all perfectly independent of the Executive, and deserving of, and are enjoying the confidence of the people. He saw no reason why the present system should be altered. From the forty years experience which he had enjoyed of their constitution, he maintained the opinions which he had then held. Shall it be said, that the enlightened minds of the Canadian patriots of the present day, are to subvert and upset that which the 4 Burke, a Pitt, a Sheridan, and a Fox; the most glorious of England's statesmen, had contributed to form? He hoped to see the Canadians maintain the constitution as it was, and he felt convinced that the great body of the Canadian people, if not misled, would be ready to shed their blood in its defence. He concluded by moving—

That the constitution of this Province is, in all respects, well calculated to advance the prosperity of the country, and to secure the happiness of all classes of His Majesty's Canadian subjects.

The motion having been seconded by Joseph Shuter, Esq. was carried unanimously.

PIERRE BIBAUD, Esq. in submitting a third resolution to so very large a portion of his fellow citizens, gave it as his first opinion that the present prosperity of the country was solely owing to the constitution as it now stood, and that any change in the mode of choice for the Council, either by the people at large or otherwise would prove dangerous to its best interests and be a reversal of the first principles of our government. It would be erecting a pure democracy which would become absolute and universal—and would eventually give rise to cabals and jealousies and to every evil that can possibly affect a people. After what had fallen from Messrs. Grant and Quesnel, it was unnecessary for him to enlarge; he would therefore propose as a third resolution.

That the Legislative Council of the Province, as constituted by virtue of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, is an essential branch of the Legislature, and that any change in the mode of creating the members of that body is inexpedient and unnecessary, and would be dangerous to the peace and welfare of the country.

The motion having been seconded by George Auld, Esq. was unanimously adopted.

JOHN JONES, Esq. then proposed—

That the determination to render the Legislative Council of this Province an elective body, evinced in the proceedings of certain assemblies of persons, lately held in the country parts of this district, and the unjust aspersions cast upon the Courts of Justice, are regarded by this meeting, with apprehensions and regret, as the efforts of factious and designing men to engender dissatisfaction to the constitution and government of the Province; while this meeting is persuaded that the well disposed inhabitants of the Province desire no alteration in the constitution of their Legislature and have full confidence in the administration of the laws.

The motion having been seconded by D. B. Rollin, Esq. was unanimously adopted.

SAMUEL GERRARD, Esq. on moving the next resolution, remarked, he believed, he might say, that every person present would admit, that for some time past particularly since last winter, unceasing attempts had been made to disseminate discontent throughout the country, and instill into the minds of a loyal and well disposed people, the unjust suspicion that they were oppressed with grievances, and deprived of their most valuable political rights. Without discussing the fact, which would be unsuitable on this occasion, he affirmed that such insinuations were mischievous and unfounded; and that on an unprejudiced review of their situation, they must allow there was not a country in the world, that had less cause than this for complaint. If they looked to the nations of Europe, they saw them burdened with taxes, operating under the revolutionary scourge, and on a comparison of their lot with the people of those nations, they had just cause of contentment, and should be grateful for the blessings they experienced. Here they were troubled with such trifling taxation, that it was not worth noticing, their persons and property were protected, the laws were impartially administered, and there was no greater restraint on their liberty than the welfare of society required. What then were they to think of those restless characters, who make it their occupation to alarm the inhabitants of the country, who assiduously and artfully misrepresent the acts and intentions of His Majesty's Government, and stigmatized, with the epithet of enemies to the Canadians, all those who were not disposed to ascend their views, and place implicit confidence in their political tenets? They assumed the proud title of patriots! but if they were judged by their actions, they deserved to be characterized by a different appellation. A well wisher to his country, who had misrepresentations; he did not judge of his fellow subjects by the circumstance of their being born on this or that side of the Atlantic, but zealous for the general welfare he promoted it as became an upright member of society, and did not calculate the Government that fostered and protected him. Unfortunately, as he had had occasion to observe there existed among them a degree of excitement, that diminished confidence in the security of property, and materially affected their commercial relations. It was impossible to say what may be the consequence; but, if the resolution that he should now have the honour to submit to the respectable meeting he saw before him, were adopted, it would mark its disavowal of such measures, and convey to the country its sense of their prejudicial tendency.

That the political excitement which disaffected persons have partially produced, and which they are endeavouring to extend over the country is calculated to induce a want of confidence in the security of property in this Province, and thereby to embarrass and weaken the commercial relations of the inhabitants thereof with the other country and the sister colonies.

The motion having been seconded by Pierre C. Dubois, Esq. was unanimously carried.

Dr. WILLIAM CALDWELL then proposed as the sixth resolution—

That as the measures pursued by disaffected persons, now disturbing this community, tend to estrange the affections of the people of this country from His Majesty, to weaken their adherence to his Government, and to excite animosity against their fellow subjects from the mother country and the sister colonies, this meeting considers the time to have arrived, when it is the bounden duty of every well disposed subject of His Majesty in these Provinces, to declare openly his unalterable attachment to the Government, unimpaired confidence in the administration of the laws, his full reliance on the protection of the mother country, and his determination to maintain her sovereignty over this portion of the empire.

The motion having been seconded by George Gregory, Esq. was unanimously adopted.

JOHN TORRANCE, Esq. moved—

That it is expedient that an humble address be presented to His Majesty, founded on the foregoing resolutions, and that the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee for that

purpose, with power to add to their numbers, J. G. Grant, Hypolite Guy, Alexander Buchanan, Jules Quesnel, George Auld, Turton Penn, Pierre Bibaud, Dr. W. Caldwell, D. B. Rollin, Augustin Perrault, T. P. Anderson, Felix Soultay, Joseph Masson, J. T. Parrett, Esqrs.

The motion having been seconded by Alexis Bourrett, Esq. was unanimously adopted.

The thanks of the meeting having been voted to Mr. Gates for his able conduct in the chair and to the secretary for his services, it then adjourned.

UPPER CANADA.

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

YORK, Wednesday, Oct. 31.

Soon after three o'clock, P. M. this day, pursuant to official notification—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came down in state to the Parliament House, and having taken his seat on the throne, in the chamber of the Legislative Council; and the House of Assembly being summoned to the chamber, His Excellency delivered the following

SPEECH:

Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The continued emigration, unprecedented as regards the industry and capital transferred to this country from the parent State, is, by its beneficial influence, forcing the Province rapidly forward, and opening to you the fairest prospects. Your deliberations, therefore, cannot but render this Session of peculiar importance to the general interests of the colony.

You will learn with satisfaction, that the population has increased not less than a fourth since the reports forwarded for your information last Session: that the emigrants, with few exceptions, are fully occupied in the districts in which they are established; and that the extensive agricultural improvements, and actual cultivation, promise support and employment for our countrymen, whom the current of events may induce to find their abode in this part of the empire.

In directing your attention to these favourable results, you will find that under existing circumstances no subject is more closely connected with the immediate prosperity of the colony, or requires an earlier consideration, than the anticipated progressive increase in the number of emigrants, that will from this season annually flow into the Canada.

The Rideau Canal has been completed by the exertions and perseverance of the officer who had the charge of that great national work. The chief advantages of this navigation cannot be attained, while the unfinished works on the River Ottawa obstruct the passage into the St. Lawrence; but with reference to the degree of improvement which the colony has reached, and the interest of the parent State to be obtained, one to you who are acquainted with the districts, intersected by the Rideau and adjoining lakes, and with avenues to internal commerce recently opened, that the expenditure incurred in thus accelerating the development of your resources, will produce in every respect a profitable return.

The arbitrators appointed to adjust the claims on the part of Upper Canada, to a proportion of the duties levied at Quebec, have not agreed on any satisfactory arrangement; a third arbitrator will be nominated by the King, in conformity to the British Act, passed in the third year of His late Majesty's reign.

I am happy to be enabled to inform you the disease, which, by the dispensation of Divine Providence, has so widely prevailed, has nearly disappeared in every district of this Province. At the time when the disease first extended its ravages to the eastern districts, the Executive Government adopted such active measures as the exigency demanded, and I feel confident that you will approve of the responsibility assumed, and the arrangement made at that distressing period for the preservation of the public health.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly.

The annual accounts and estimates shall be laid before you, and I think you will make the necessary provision for the service of the ensuing year, and for the salaries and claims of the several departments not sanctioned last session.

I have ordered detailed accounts to be transmitted to you, of the sums placed by my direct on, at the disposal of the magistrates, on the urgent occasion to which I have alluded—you will, I have no doubt, provide for the repayment of the amount advanced.

Honourable Gentlemen and Gentlemen.

His Majesty has acceded to a request of the House of Assembly in respect to the appropriation of the sum arising from the sale of lands formerly set apart for grammar schools, and not alienated by the authority of His Majesty's Government; the accounts of the Board, under whose control the school reserves have hitherto been placed, will be delivered over to the King's Receiver General at the close of the year. In this instance of the consideration of the King, in complying with the prayer of the address of the House of Assembly, you will perceive the solicitude of His Majesty to promote the wishes of the Province.

It will be for you to decide upon the practical mode of applying to the intended object, the school funds; and whether it may not be more desirable to appoint a commission to carry into effect the measures of the Legislature in regard to the distribution of the proceeds of these lands, than to dispose of them by annual vote. Whatever course you may deem it expedient to pursue, it will be gratifying to me to concur in such enactment as may appear best calculated to secure the interests of the people.

NOVA SCOTIA.

ATROCIOUS MURDER AT SYDNEY.—We copy from the Cape Breton Herald, the following particulars relative to the murder of a person named Flavin, and the measures taken for the vindication of justice. Truly these colonies are advancing in the career of crime—within a brief space we have had a husband arraigned for killing his wife—a son for slaying his father, and here a woman is arrested on strong suspicions of being accessory to the murder of her husband. If these things continue we can scarcely be permitted to shudder at the enormities of the Southern and Western States.

A most atrocious murder was committed a few days ago on the body of John Flavin, the keeper of a public house near North Sydney. The body was found in the forest about half a mile from the house formerly occupied by the deceased. On examination it appeared so disfigured, that it was difficult at first to identify it, and the children of the unfortunate Flavin could scarce recognize the features of their father. Several blows from a sharp instrument, supposed to be an axe, were inflicted on the head, the back part of the nose cut broken in, the forehead split open, the teeth were across and the upper lip divided, the teeth were mostly all knocked in, his throat was cut from ear to ear, and his right thigh nearly severed by a blow of an axe. From marks on his arm it appeared that the deceased must have defended himself for some time after the first attack.

The coroner, John Hill, Esq. held an inquest in the customary manner, and the Jury after examining several witnesses returned a verdict against William Johnston and Reuben Easman, as the murderers of the deceased Flavin; also, against Charlotte Flavin his wife, as an accomplice and accessory to the murder, the parties being apprehended were brought up before Chief Justice Marshall, W. Ously, C. Leonard, & P. H. Clarke, Esqrs. who minutely examined the evidences against