

# HURON SIGNAL.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1849.

## A FEW THOUGHTS ON HOUSE-BURNING.

Now that the Montreal Madmen have seen the end of their folly and wickedness, and are becoming capable of being reasoned with, we will offer a few calm thoughts for their serious consideration; and as the Quack says of his medicine, "if it does so good, it will do no harm."

We formerly asserted, and we now repeat the assertion, that there is no feeling or principle in human nature which can, *instinctively*, or from the mere impulse of the moment, be led to express itself in acts of violent public outrage, by any question of pounds, shillings and pence; or, in fact, by any question whose effect is in the future. There is a feeling of destructive vengeance in the human mind, and when it is aroused by some sudden and unexpected atrocity, inflicted in wanton cruelty, either upon our persons or upon our sympathies, it rushes forward with the recklessness and annihilating fury of the tornado; and, for instance, in the case of the Essex Blacksmith with the poll-tax gatherer, or the case of the Parisian mob with the procureur Nue.

In these instances, all the valuable feelings of our nature were outraged and convulsed on the spot, and on the instant; and the penalty annexed to this temerity, in both instances, was death, terrible, cruel, and unrelenting. But the future of an act can only be apprehended or discovered by deliberate calculation; and even then amount to nothing more than probability, and nature, never can become enraged with probability, for the same deliberation that enabled her to perceive the probability, would at once suggest the impropriety and folly of being enraged—therefore to attribute the atrocities of the Montreal Tories to a casual outbreak of popular indignation is to exhibit human nature in much deeper depths of crime, and to ascribe to her a capacity of displaying, even in her most savage condition. These atrocities were, in reality, the result of a regularly reconcentrated system of wickedness—they are universally regarded as such—and as such they will be historically transmitted to posterity. There were no rotten eggs lying on the street for the accommodation of the mob, whose necessity for such materials was altogether a contingency.—And to talk of an "outburst of popular feeling," where men had come prepared with the weapons through which that feeling was to be manifested, and had waited a considerable time for the opportunity of using these weapons, may appear pardonable in such men as Sir ALEX. McNAB or JAMES MON FERRAS, but it exhibits a lamentable ignorance of the philosophy of human nature! The man who would bring the dagger from a distance, and who would wait patiently the approach of his victim, would scarcely obtain a verdict of manslaughter—he would at once be denounced as a wretch, and deliberate murderer.—The Montreal outrage was, therefore, as we have formerly stated, the result of a deliberate plan, and had an immediate relation to the passing of the Indemnity Bill, or any other particular act. The motive which suggested the flagrant violation of all the principles of civilization, is perfectly understood and duly appreciated throughout the continents of America and Europe; and is the perpetual monument of the blind folly and extravagant ferocity of Toryism.

The age of oppressive minorities has passed away from Canada, and the Constitution affords but one method of redress to the disaffected party, and that is the privilege of endeavoring to obtain by free discussion, and other peaceable means, a public verdict in favor of its principles, thereby rendering its policy triumphant at the next general election. This, we say, is the only path by which the Constitution of Canada recognizes as legitimate the method which affords the most powerful and equitable method of redress, stands chargeable with contempt of the constitution, with contempt of justice, and with contempt of their fellow countrymen.

Where such redress is afforded, outrage can never be taken as an expression of public opinion, because this would virtually be deciding that the majority of mankind are opposed to peace and justice; which we would deem an insult to our nature. One man may set fire to a house, while ten thousand may be quite unable to extinguish it,—but the burning of the house is no proof that the ten thousand were gratified with the work of the incendiary—and though it be admitted that they were gratified, that is no proof of the righteousness of their cause, or the moral rectitude of their principles. One ruffian may assault or even assassinate a Governor General, while a hundred thousand may have no power to prevent the outrage. But such ruffianism is no proof of the state of public opinion. These atrocities merely prove that, in defiance of civilization, law and religion, society is still cursed with certain unfortunate ruffians!

The legitimate tendency of such conduct is to break up society, and, in fact, to exterminate our species. There is no feeling in man's nature that will impel him to burn a house, or to throw missiles, outrageously, at the Queen's Representative, merely because a Bill which had been discussed and partly acted on for eight years previously, had been declared finally decided. But, while we deny the existence of this feeling, we do not deny the existence of a feeling which can be called into furious, rageful, deadly activity by deeds of cruelty or acts of wanton outrage. And upon the first missile being thrown at the Queen's Representative, or upon witnessing the flames rising from the Provincial Libraries, had some party thrown a bullet through the brains of St. ALVAN MCNAB, or Sir JOHN MON FERRAS, the conduct would have been at variance with the principles of civilization, of morality, and of religion; but it would, at least, have been in harmony with an acknowledged principle of human nature—the principle of resistance and revenge. Of all the arguments that have ever been brought into the discussion of a plain political question, the story argument of arson is certainly the most futile, and at the same time the most dangerous; it is futile because it proves nothing political more than it does religious—it

## HURON DISTRICT.

### VIZ: A HANT ABOUT ROAD MAKING.

PERHAPS many of our readers are not aware that one of the first and best measures passed during the late Session of Parliament is a Bill introduced by the Hon. HENRY JOHN BOURNOUR, to authorize the formation and incorporation of Road and Bridge Companies in Upper Canada—

to make it a little plainer, and to apply it specially to our present purpose; we wish our readers, and all others, the inhabitants of the Huron District, to understand that an Act of Parliament is now in existence authorizing us, or any number of us, not less than five, to form ourselves into a Company for the purpose of graveling the road between the Town of Goderich and Raitensbury's Corners, and of erecting "Toll-Gates" and collecting tolls sufficient to keep the road in repair, and to yield a fair interest not exceeding *twelve per cent* on the outlay capital. The expense of constructing a good gravel road on this line is estimated at two hundred and fifty pounds per mile, or three thousand pounds for the whole distance of twelve miles; and at the present average amount of traffic on the road, a toll of six pence, or one half penny per mile, will keep up the road and yield an interest of not less than ten per cent on three thousand pounds. And surely the man who would grumble to pay a penny for the benefit of twelve miles of good gravel road for his team, is not sufficiently civilized to be the owner of a team—he is richly entitled to the luxury of mud three feet deep, beautifully blended with logs and stumps. Now what we wish to be distinctly understood, is simply this, that six hundred shares, of five pounds each, amount exactly to three thousand pounds, and we feel satisfied that in this era of "Leagues," and petitions, and addresses, and coming "Conventions," when thousands of hundreds of thousands can be induced to unite in every species of nonsense; the District of Huron can surely produce 600 men who are willing to unite in a "League" for making good roads. This is a League which might have the honor of becoming a reality in the production of good. It will not interfere with the religious or political creed of any man—it is cheap, useful, and, above, it will be profitable. In such a League, specializing, hot stuff, and Mr. Giles will be liberal supporters. In short, we who have never been content with any body's business, are perfectly willing to count as one of the 600 members of the "Gravel Road League," and if any respectable party, be the Whig, Tory, or Radical, will call a meeting on the subject, or adopt any other plausible means to obtain the formation of this League, we will cheerfully give three inches in the signal, to their last utterance without either fee or reward.

ROBERT'S NEW WORK.—In the same week in which Lord Elgin's Dispatch, detailing the atrocities of the Montreal Tories, reached England, a work on Colonization, containing the names of the authors, is published in London Press. The author is JOHN ARTHUR ROBERTS, the learned and talented Member for Sheffield. As might be expected, a large portion of Mr. ROBERTS'S work is devoted to the British Colonies of North America, from which we give the following extracts, fully preserved in his own words.

"I have carefully obtained from all discussion of any actually existing grievance or dispute in any colony. My conclusions rest on large results in the history—from the teaching and experience of centuries, and on that foundation my proposal is a peculiar and decided character. The separation of the British North American colonies from England, in itself never to me appeared a calamity, provided: First, That this separation was amicable. And secondly, that they were not added to the United States, but were formed into one independent federation, governing themselves, and united in bonds of friendship with England. The extension of the power of the United States to the North Point I have always considered an event fatal to the maritime superiority of England. Possessed of the St. Lawrence the United States would in fact have no frontier to defend. Her offensive and defensive power would be increased by that acquisition to an extent that would render her influence dangerous to the general liberty of the world. I seek, therefore, to prevent that acquisition. We cannot do it dogmatically and tenaciously attempting to keep things as they are on the American continent, but we ought to look forward, and so prepare for the future, as to render the probability of a new confederation not only probable but certain; a confederation which would prove a counterpoise to the gigantic empire and influence of the United States; a confederation in which there are really no hostile interests. No slavery exists there to separate north from south; no variety of climate, by producing different commodities, renders necessary different markets, and thus tends to separate interests. The chief products of British North America find their best and most ready sale, or dependencies of England, and there is, therefore, no jealousy between the separate provinces, created by different commercial connections and necessities. Geographically they are one people, and may in despite of their rigorous climate, form by union a really powerful federate community, which with the friendship and alliance of England, may not only maintain itself independent, but constitute a formidable counterpoise to the United States.

"If we, however, are determined to consider our colonial dominion immortal—if we

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do nothing to relieve the people now living in those provinces from the humiliations of a contract between their own inferior condition and that enjoyed by the citizens of the republic by their side—we shall designate the new colonists from our rule; they will seek to obtain independence in the readiest way which offers, and that will then be by joining the United States as separate and independent states, and becoming members of the Republican Federation. They will leave us with a hostile feeling—they will leave us probably after a rebellion and a war—they will throw themselves upon the United States for assistance. That assistance will be given—a war with the United States will follow; and whatever may be the valour of our armies, or the skill of our generals, the result is inevitable: the whole Continent will be violently invaded from our grant, and we shall remain shorn of our provinces, seriously injured in our means, gasping and bleeding at every pore, with a world made our bitter foe, and without a friend or ally, either in Europe or America.

"This language I have always held; and in order to prevent such a fatal catastrophe, I have pressed upon the attention of successful Colonial Ministers the necessity of preventing the colonies from being regarded as independent, not only with respect to the United States, but to the United States also. They have either been unable or unwilling to adopt or to frame any scheme for that purpose. But I did myself once propose a plan, which in view, under very curious and important circumstances, but without success."—*Birmingham Journal*.

We are extremely gratified to see in the *British Courier*, that we find the Rev. HANNAH MERRIS, Church of England Clergyman of the West Indies, has felt it his duty to come out with a series of Letters in defence of Lord Elgin and the Ministry. Mr. MERRIS, from the influence which he possesses over an extensive populous District, and especially from his intimate connection with the Orange Lodges of the Barbadoes and Demerara Districts, as their chaplain, must, undoubtedly, be the author of much good, by the many and upright positions which he has assumed in the present crisis. The following are the propositions which he proposes to prove in reference to the Indemnity Bill:

I. "All this violence and criminality were committed under the pretence or impression that a bill for indemnifying rebels had received the Sovereign's sanction, and become the law of the land. It is my belief that Lord Elgin's conduct in that matter was both right in itself and according to our constitution, and as it seems to involve the inquiry, what is our constitution, I beg to submit in proof that the Governor General was perfectly justified, the following propositions:

I. The Act for indemnifying parties in Lower Canada introduced by Mr. LATOUCHE for losses incurred during the Rebellion makes no provision for paying the losses of Rebels.

II. The history of the general enactment relative to this subject, since the rebellion, shows conclusively that the Governor General could not withhold his consent from the measure.

III. That the nature of Responsible or representative Government, left him no alternative but to concur in the matter.

IV. The conduct of his Predecessors since 1838 justified him in sanctioning the bill.

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ada after the 5th or 6th of May, (he having gone to England) and the Bill was finally passed on the 26th, and assented to on the 30th. Mr. Cayley in no way known, supported the measure. The *Animas* of the article referred to, appears to be in some political support for Mr. Cayley. It is mainly owing to the Hon. Mr. Cameron that the Bill was carried, and it is but a small return for his kind services, to say so—but knowing something of the matter, I cannot allow the above remarks in the *Gazette* to pass current, without being contradicted. More might be said.

JOHN J. B. LINTON.  
Stratford, 10th June, 1849.

## TO THE EDITOR OF THE HURON SIGNAL.

Dear Sir,—I observe a communication in your paper of the 15th inst., signed "Frederick Parker" expressing great dissatisfaction at finding his name attached to a petition which lay in my Store for signature. Parker's father-in-law was the person who had written the petition, and with Parker's own knowledge, who told him that he was going to sign the petition, and would put down his name as Parker's name, as it was wished to make it appear. I was in Goderich at the time the petition was written, and I have never seen or heard of Parker's name without his own consent, he may think his own name to be done to any petition, but I do not care to do so, for what reason I am not under any impression for a thing, of which I am entirely innocent. — CHAS. R. DICKSON.

## FROM THE LONDON NON-CONFORMIST.

THE MONTREAL RIOTS.—A more disastrous riot than that got up by the Tory faction in Canada, against the Bill for paying the Rebellion losses of 1837, has seldom come within the range of our observation. It was senseless, senseless, and dangerous. The real ground of the injustice of an act which was one of their own measures of policy when in power, but which they had not the chance of carrying out. None of the parties to be concerned in the loss of their property during the rebellion had been legally convicted of taking part in the outbreak. The pretence that the bill was a premium on delinquency, was therefore a mere subterfuge. The real ground of objection to the measure was, that it was proposed by a Liberal Ministry—especially by a Ministry comprising French colonists. The Tories, the spoiled pets of the Imperial Government, and the favorites of the excessive Governor General, were out of power, and their opponents—in this is the true secret of their unscrupulous opposition. They are the same parties who endeavored to make the same measure a mere monopoly in the hands of the Bishops—who tried to turn the common schools of Canada, established for the purposes of secular education, to sectarian purposes—who, when in power, retained office, by the favor of successive Governors and the folly of Home Government, against the sense of the people and who, when reduced to their last shifts, attempted, at the recent general election, to buy the support of the Tory party, by nominating, by committing a wrong upon the rest of the community, and an outrage on morality and religion. We cannot, however, lock upon this agitation as a honest one, but upon it as a great party, but by an unscrupulous faction, to serve their own selfish purposes; and it has only attained any measure of success by bringing up irregular questions, and fomenting the prejudices of race against race.

Singularly enough, the first British Governor who has carried out honestly and fairly the principle of responsible government in Canada, has been grossly defamed and injured by the means of Lord Elgin, because he has adopted the principle of "Canada for the Canadians," and bowed to the will of the local Parliament, has raised up a party of his own, and has been grossly defamed and injured by the means of Lord Elgin. The only possible construction we can put upon the factious policy of the opposition is, the desire to make responsible government obnoxious, or rather, unworkable.

DEATH OF JAMES JOHNSTON.—The *Bytown Gazette* of Saturday last announces the death of James Johnston, Esq., formerly a member of the Legislative Assembly for the County of Carleton. Our contemporaries pay the following brief tribute to his memory:—

"Remarkable for these clever eccentricities, which obtained for him notoriety, wherever he went, from the halls of the Legislature, down to the humble farmstead, he was possessed of many estimable qualities which ensured for him a reputation, that will prove even still more enduring, that of an honest man, and independent and fearless in his opinions. In his private life he was a familiarly termed, was ever the poor man's friend, and his memory will long be preserved by many, to whom in the hour of need, he proved himself a true friend. Peace to his ashes!"—*Globe*.

James K. Bulk, ex-President of the United States, died at his residence, Nashville, Tennessee, on the evening of the 15th inst.

SIGNATURES.—We understand that the Rev. Thomas Rattray of this city has succeeded from the commission of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Canada. As to his reasons for so doing we understand that in matters of religious doctrine, he dissent from the body merely on a single, and it seems to us a rather unimportant, point in the doctrine of Christian perfection, as held by the Wesleyan Society. This fact is well attested by the attention of persons desirous of a dignified station for business, and will be sold very reasonably terms. For particulars apply to Thomas Hill, Tavern-keeper, Quebec, or to the proprietor, JONAS COFF.

Village of Harperry, 22nd 1849.

FOR SALE, THE HATLAND BREWERY PROPERTY. THIS property consists of three acres on a back of the river Mattand, and on a small island belonging to Mr. McQuinn, near the mill race, and is situated on the west side of the river, and is a very desirable property. Upon which there is a BREWERY with excellent equipment, a Mill house and Mill Kiln, all complete. There is also an excellent site for a Brewery on the lot, and the owner has a right to the water on the bank on the opposite side of the road which is sufficient at all seasons of the year for three such works. For particulars intending purchasers may apply (if by letter post) to DAVID DONN, Goderich, Goderich, May 11, 1849. 22-114

## BY THIS MORNING'S MAIL.

THE YOUNG LORD BAUCON.—Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to write an autograph letter to Lady Elgin expressing her desire to stand Sponsor for the heir of Lord Elgin, and that to be called Alexander Victor, after her Majesty (Alexandra Victoria). This announcement cannot fail to be gratifying to Lady Elgin and his Excellency the Governor General; and we feel confident that the great mass of the people of Canada will receive much gratification from it.—*Globe*.

SILVERIA CASPER.—A confectioner in New York has taken up the newly discovered antidote and remedy for Cholera, so recently made known by Dr. Bird, and by combining the proportions of sulphur and charcoal with sugar, has made a celebrated medicine in an agreeable form.—*Baltimore*.

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