

nity, and successfully maintained by exaggerated statements of the casualties that had occurred, relying on the few who were willing to investigate for themselves; the Directors, compelled by the necessities of the Company, again in 1831 presented their memorial for further aid from the Province. This was, however, done with so hesitating a fearfulness, that they did not make a full representation of the actual wants of the company; to obviate the defect, one of the stockholders again, as in 1827, made a representation, and freely exhibited what in his opinion must be the wants of the Company, and attempted to prove the good policy and beneficial effect of adequate and full instead of partial relief. The Committee, after a thorough examination of the affairs of the Company, approved of the more efficient course recommended and reported, in favor of creating a Government stock, to the amount of £200,000; taking the Canal and its works in pledge therefor, for the purpose of completing the Canal as it should be, paying off the former debts of the company to the Government, and consolidating the whole. The useful effect of this measure on the prospect of the Company, the funds of the Province, and indeed the whole character of the undertaking, was so evident to every person who had bestowed any thought on financial operations, that its failure, after being recommended by the Committee, confirmed by the Commons House of Assembly, and supported by a resolution of supply, was matter of astonishment and regret to many disinterested friends of the work both in and out of the House. It is not my design to examine the cause of the abandonment of so good a measure. It will be sufficient to say, that all the features of this promising measure were altered; and a loan of the credit of the Government was voted for £50,000—a sum merely adequate to make the communication to Lake Erie direct, leaving the supply for repairs and the restoration of an impaired credit by payment of debts, and also the payment of the semi-annual interest on the £50,000, dependant on the contingent tolls to be derived from an imperfect, and, indeed, an unfinished work. Unequal as this sum was, to the full accomplishment of the object, the aid was necessary, and although accompanied with most singular and personally burthensome conditions, yet those conditions were complied with, and it was thankfully received. The work was again started with vigor, a temporary loan having been procured, on the hypothecation of these Government securities, for £50,000, and there was every reasonable prospect that the whole would be finished in a short time, when all labor was arrested by that desolating scourge with which, in 1832, the whole country was afflicted. Thus, time after time, and year after year, have the prospects of this company been blasted by occurrences not within their control, and by a public calamity in which the whole Province was involved; yet in this last instance, if what I heard was a true representation of the language used, the company has been charged with fault, *for not having* had power to contend with this afflictive dispensation of Providence