

rather damped the sale of the "green goods," but did not wholly prevent it.

In the Fall of 1813 one Reuben Ainsworth was arrested at Cornwall for uttering a forged Army Bill to Mr. McAulny of that place; he was committed to gaol at Cornwall to await the Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, and the (Acting) Attorney-General, John Beverley Robinson, was notified. In those days the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General were accustomed to prosecute the criminal cases in person, unless it was physically impossible—the fees which they thus earned, small as they were, helped to eke out the disgracefully small salaries they were paid.<sup>8</sup> But Robinson was overburdened with official work (it is amazing how he stood it), and recommended Mr. Jonas Jones<sup>9</sup> of Brockville to be retained to prosecute Ainsworth. Ainsworth saved his neck by breaking gaol<sup>10</sup> and effecting his escape to the United States. Jones, however, went into the matter very fully; he found that these forged Bills were for sale at Ogdensburg, and that evil-disposed persons on the Canada side crossed over and purchased them to circulate them in this Province; he obtained names and took means to effect the arrest of the offenders—the evil was spreading alarmingly in the Johnstown and Eastern District, *i.e.*, along the St. Lawrence.<sup>11</sup>

It was not long before a young man was caught passing a forged Army Bill. Duncan Campbell, one of

<sup>8</sup> These law officers were paid and appointed by the Home Administration. John Sandfield Macdonald was the last "Law Officer of the Crown" to prosecute in person—I never saw it done.

<sup>9</sup> Afterwards (1837) Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Upper Canada. Robinson's letter is in the Can. Arch. Sundries U.C. 1813, and is dated at York, October 31, 1813. Robinson says Jones is of Elizabethtown: de Rottenburg says he is a lawyer of Prescott, he himself addresses his letter from Brockville.

<sup>10</sup> Neil McLean, the sheriff, writing from Charlottenburg November 19, 1813, with the information of the landing of the troops of General Wilkinson in the Township of Matilda, says that the Gaol became unsafe and he ordered a guard to take the prisoners to Coteau du Lac to Colonel Scott—Reuben Ainsworth and Richard Boyer, committed for crime. Alexander Hoyer (a debtor), and John Fulton, both dangerous and disaffected persons. "Ainsworth jumped out of the window guarded by two men the day before they were to leave—the others were delivered to Col. Scott." Canadian Archives Sundries, U.C., 1813.

<sup>11</sup> See letters of Jones to Edward McMahon, the Governor's Secretary, Brockville, Nov. 13, 1813; from General de Rottenburg to Col. Edward B. Prenton, Kingston, Nov. 16, 1813. Can. Arch. Sundries, U.C.