

APPENDIX.

The letter, of which the following is a copy, taken from the original document in the library of the Parliament Buildings at Toronto, by the kindness of Rev. W. Logan, M. A., was written by the Hon. Peter Russel, Administrator of the Government, to Mr. Peter McGill, Treasurer of the Province of Upper Canada. It gives us as through a shifting scene glimpses of the times of one hundred years ago, the houses, amusements, manner of communication between Toronto and Niagara, severity of the winter, the thrifty ways of our forefathers, the procrastination of one official and the methodical ways of another. It is to be hoped due provision was made for the twenty-five :

“ NIAGARA, 14th December, 1796.

“ DEAR SIR,—As the Legislature is to meet at York the first day of June. it becomes absolutely necessary that provision shall be made for their Reception without loss of Time. You will therefore be pleased to apprise the Inhabitants of the Town that Twenty-five Gentlemen will want lodgings and board during the Sessions, which may possibly induce them to fix up their houses and lay in provisions to accommodate them. Those two detached houses belonging to the Government House must at any Rate be got ready, the one for the Legislative Council, the other for the Assembly. The Bars, Tables, and other articles belonging to them I shall direct to be sent over hence. The house appropriated for the Legislative Council can be occasionally used as a Council Chamber. I beg likewise that you desire Mr. Graham to examine the two Canvas Houses and report the practicability of removing the best of them to the Town, to be raised there for giving Dinners in to the Members of the two Houses ; Mr. Pilkington tells me that the Screws which fasten them together will no longer act, and that larger ones must be provided if they are again removed. We must therefore know the expense before the job is undertaken, and calculate whether a temporary building with Boards, so constructed as not to injure the materials, may not be cheaper and more commodious. If this should prove to be the case the Canvas Houses may stand, and with Major Smith's permission I will consign this Quarter to the Chief Justice and his Friend, the Rev. Mr. Reddish. Should anything material occur to require immediate communication with me from Major Shaw, Major Smith or yourself, you will be pleased to inform Major Smith that a Trusty