

lands as are liable to forfeiture for non-settlement had been received.—which the Colonial Secretary states, His Majesty's Government must at once decline to advise His Majesty to accede to. But with a view to apply some remedy to the evil complained of, Lord Glenelg reminds them that similar grievances existed, and were complained of in Upper Canada, and that recently the Government of that Colony had passed a law levying an assessment on all granted lands of every description, with a proviso, that where arrears are allowed to accumulate eight years, a portion is allowed to be levied on and sold to pay the debt. He advises them to do the same, and as a guide, sent them a copy of the Upper Canada Act which had received the Royal assent.

His Excellency also caused the Despatch of Lord Glenelg, (1833.) relative to the commutation of the Quit Rents, to be re-published in the Royal Gazette, for the information of those persons who may be desirous of availing themselves of the offers made therein.

QUEBEC, October 12.

Highway robbery, murder, arson, house-breaking and theft are succeeding each other rapidly in Quebec. We mentioned in Monday's paper a cruel case of highway robbery on the Carouge road, on Saturday, the place was, however, indistinctly laid, it was at the brook between Spencer Wood and Mr. Shepard's. On Monday a peaceable inhabitant of St. John's Suburbs, Antoine Belletan dit Larose, the father of a family of five young children, who, with his wife, depended on his labor for their support, was killed by a blow with a bludgeon near St. John's Gate, in the evening, when returning to his work at Mr. Turner's Bake-house, Fabrique-street, where he has been long foreman. The same night, an attempt at arson was made at Messrs. Gilmour's property, at Wolfe's Cove, and every night there are thefts and attempts at house-breaking.

The insufficiency and unfit state of our gaols have produced a number of hardened and associated criminals, who are periodically let loose upon us. The multitude of low taverns, brothels and abandoned women, the want of all police, the general laxity in the execution of the laws, and the demoralizing effects of political squabbles, party spirit and division of the citizens, have given a new impetus to crime of every description, and the facility of communication by steam has established a frequent transfer of rogues, and vagabonds of the worst character between Montreal and Quebec and even New York, besides importations by sea.

The Magistrates, as we have already stated, are without any pecuniary resources for objects of police. They have nothing but gratuitous, onerous and disagreeable duties to perform, which are sure to be unsuccessful. The citizens have little energy or disposition to act in concert for the common welfare, and there is no law to authorise compulsory measures or raise funds. All efforts at protection are reduced to individual efforts, which must ever be unavailing, and give rise to new disorders, injustice, breaches of the peace and a total contempt of the public authority, in fact the disorganization of society, unless sufficient public spirit should revive among the citizens, to submit to some sacrifices, and arm the public authority with means and general support for the protection of all.—*Nelson's Gazette.*

Snow has been falling since noon to-day, and the whole of the surrounding country is now covered with it. Snow storms have before occurred on the 29th September. The first fall has never been known to remain on the ground throughout the winter.—*Id.*

October 14.

The mail from Quebec to Halifax was robbed at Cap St. Ignace, while the driver was changing horses. The robbers carried off the New Brunswick and Nova-Scotia bags, which contained money letters belonging to Sir John Caldwell £250, a draft of Mr. Hayes £100, and Messrs. Marison and Tobin £10. The bags for England were left.

The Mail Portmanteau has been found in a wood—cut open and empty.

Amongst other notes there were the following: One of £5 of the Halifax Banking Company, No. 1393, dated 1st July 1826. One of £5 of the Bank of Nova Scotia, No. 2939, Mark A. dated 2d June 1831.

A reward of \$200 is offered by the Deputy Post Master General, for the discovery of the author or authors of this robbery.

This, we believe, is the first mail robbery that has occurred in Lower Canada.—*Id.*

Fire.—Saturday, Sept. 10.—Great fire in Lower Town.

Thursday Evening, October 6.—Fire in Palace Street.

Friday Evening, Oct. 7.—Fire in St. Paul's Market.

Monday night, Oct. 10.—Incendiary attempt at Wolf's Cove.

Wednesday Evening, Oct. 12.—Fire near the Exchange.

Loss to the City, about half a million of Dollars.

The fire on Wednesday evening broke out about 9 o'clock in one of Mr. Bateau's houses, corner of St. James and Arthur-street, occupied by Mrs. Leighton, as a boarding-house. The flames were penetrating through the roof when it was discovered, and must have originated in the garret. No timely assistance was at hand, or it might have been saved, as the fire penetrated but slowly into the apartments underneath. The wind was strong at North-East, and it was only by great exertions, favored by the rain which was falling at the time, that the whole range of Mr. Bateau's buildings were saved.

The Commissariat, Ordnance and Alliance engines were the most efficient. They saved Mr. Atkinson's house opposite, and the wooden stores in the rear, with the aid of some axemen who cleared away the wooden communications with the house on fire communicating with these stores.

The house burnt was divided into two under the same roof; the lower story of that occupied by Mrs. Leighton was occupied by Tremann and Moir, merchants, and the other by Rodger, Dean & Co.—Great quantities of merchandise and furniture were removed from these houses and the adjacent houses and stores, most of which sustained damage and loss.

The following, we believe, are the insurances of the principal sufferers:

Mr. Bateau's house, £1200 at the Quebec Office.

Mrs. Leighton's furniture, £600 at the Alliance.

Messrs. Rodger, Dean & Co., goods, £1300 at the Quebec.

Mr. Dean's furniture, £500 at do.

Tremann & Moir, £150 at do.

The latter had also £1300 on goods in the store in the rear, at the Quebec.

The rear wall of the two houses burnt fell in this afternoon en masse with a most tremendous crash. Fortunately, no person was hurt.—*Id.*

October 17.

At a meeting of the Magistrates held at the Court House on Saturday, four Magistrates were named for each of the Divisions, to wit: 1. The Upper Town, 2. The Lower Town, 3. St. Roch's Suburbs, 4. St. John and St. Louis Suburbs, to endeavour to organize Patrols in each of them; it having been deemed

unadvisable to open a general subscription to cover the expenses of patrols and light.

The proposed patrols, if they are speedily organized and go into operation, will afford some immediate security against the evils that now afflict the town; but they will not reach the root of the evil.

The ill-governed taverns, low and disorderly boarding houses, brothels, and receivers of stolen goods, must be reached and checked. The thieves and vagabonds must be watched and followed in all their movements and connexions, and lodgings provided for them where they can be held to labor. The laws against crimes and criminal offences, must be faithfully executed; and the complainants and witnesses encouraged, and protected against the loss of time and expenses. Known and daring criminals associated in the gaols must no longer be let loose on the public without security, to renew their depredations and intimidate their former victims and the witnesses against them.

Such a course would be the commencement of a reform. This commencement, however, cannot take place under the present system. Two Magistrates, acting weekly in rotation, without pecuniary means, without well paid, intelligent, trusty, zealous and active peace officers, are no match for the hordes of rogues and vagabonds and their abettors with which the town is now infested, both native and imported, associated and compelled, as it were by vice and loss of character, to war on the community and live at its expense. Nothing but one intelligent mind, with a tolerable knowledge of the criminal law and the regulations, at the same time well acquainted with the town and country, is adequate to the task, which would require his whole time and constant exertions.

The most that could be done by an able and systematic superintendence and the efficient execution of the existing laws would, however, be only a commencement. The mind, particularly of the rising generation, must be operated upon. Laws, gaols, and penitentiaries, are at best but poor substitutes for a sound religious education. The spirit of the age is reasoning men out of their reason. They do not see that their reason, which they take as the supreme umpire, is nothing but the conclusion they come to in favor of indulgence in passions inconsistent with their own permanent happiness and the welfare of society; that when the first step in vice and crime is thoughtlessly or fearlessly taken in ignorance or contempt of the established rules, all their reasoning faculties are employed rather to excuse their conduct or to continue it, than to find out truth, while every repetition of their fault renders them more liable to repeat it, less capable of discovering their error, and less powerful for self restraint.

This once happy country is rapidly falling into decay, morally, politically, and materially. It is to be hoped that there is still a sufficiency of intelligence and public spirit for putting a stop to the rapidity of its downward course.—*Id.*

On Thursday, the 6th instant, there was good sleighing at Cayuga Lake. The first frost that killed the vines, was on the 28th and 31st August.—*Id.*

A PUBLIC CATTLE MARKET

Will be held at the Three Mile Inn, on the second Tuesday of November, inst. November 2.

WANTED,

A San Apprentice to the House-Carpenter Business, a smart active Lad, about sixteen years of age.

WM. BROWN.

Pictou, Nov. 1, 1836.