

surprise that this remuneration has not been made ere this; but the ruinous consequences which would result from longer delay to several of our fellow-subjects, imperatively require, that your honourable House should press their claims with the utmost earnestness. The more recent burning of the "Thames" steamer, and of the property of individuals in different parts of the country, by the invading brigands from the United States, should, your committee are of opinion, receive the early attention of your honourable House, in order that steps may be taken to obtain for the owners a full indemnity for their losses. Your committee are well satisfied that the people of this province will not permit individuals to sustain ruinous losses which should be borne equally by all. They cannot regard the destruction of the property referred to, as among those casualties that establish no claim for indemnity from the public. They are the consequences of a national calamity, which the whole people are concerned in repairing, and your committee are well satisfied that such is the opinion of every loyal subject of Her Majesty in the province.

Ruinous consequences will result to the owners by longer delay.

Indemnity for the Thames steamer and other property.

The people of the province will not allow ruinous losses to be sustained.

It is not for your honourable House to point out the best means of defending these provinces from future invasion; but your committee are of opinion, that Her Majesty would not receive unfavourably the respectful representation, that there are many reasons against employing, for any length of time, the rural population of this new country in military duties. Taking them away from their agricultural pursuits is productive of much and serious disadvantage to the province, and it would be wrong to overlook the injurious effects which may be produced on the morals of young men, from habits too readily contracted in a service that cannot demand their constant employment.

Reasons for not employing the rural population in military duties.

If Her Majesty should direct the construction of forts and places of defence along the frontier, it is believed that very great saving would be ultimately effected, by rendering unnecessary a portion, at least, of the militia force which is now embodied; and to the calling out of which, the people of the province are materially indebted for their present safety.

Construction of forts a saving of expense.

In concluding their remarks upon the struggle in which the Canadas have been engaged during the past year, your committee will briefly advert to two points, the most gratifying to every loyal British subject. The first is, the noble and cheering declaration of our beloved Queen, that "Her Majesty is firmly determined to maintain the authority of Her Crown in this part of Her dominions;" and the second, that Her Majesty's subjects, of British and Irish descent, are not only entitled to, but are eminently deserving of the royal pledge thus given to them.

Declaration of Her Majesty.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor truly observed, in his speech at the opening of the present session of the provincial legislature, that "the main foundation of the hopes of the discontented persons in this province and their foreign supporters has been a mischievous notion, industriously propagated, that England would desert her trans-Atlantic possessions in their hour of difficulty and danger."

Observation of the Lieutenant-governor in his speech.

These false and pernicious opinions are now dispelled, as your honourable House never doubted they would be, by a pledge the most emphatic and sacred. And while their enemies are thus disappointed in their hopes, Her Majesty's loyal people are encouraged to persevere in that noble display of devoted loyalty and unsubdued bravery which has so eminently distinguished them on every occasion and in every conflict where their services have been required to expel or annihilate their ruthless invaders. It is in the power of your honourable House to inform our gracious Sovereign that, notwithstanding all the misrepresentation and falsehood that has gone forth with respect to the political feelings and principles of her subjects here, and notwithstanding the persuasions employed, and the allurements held out to seduce them from their allegiance, they have stood steadfast and firm in their faith and loyalty to their Queen; that not a man among them was found to unite with the invaders of their country; that they spurned with abhorrence the false and delusive offers made to them of greater freedom and happiness by a foreign people, who had basely and criminally dared to interfere with their institutions, and to pollute their soil with their presence; that the truth of these feelings and principles has been tested by the blood of many of their fellow-subjects, who have sacrificed their lives in maintaining them, and whose example their lamenting survivors, animated by the same patriotic spirit, are and ever will be ready to follow.

The false opinion that England would desert these colonies dispelled.

The people of this province have stood steadfast in their allegiance, though they have been misrepresented and allured.

When your committee were appointed by your honourable House, they had reason to suppose that the duties with which they were charged would not extend beyond the subject referred to in the preceding pages of this report; but since that period, a document has been promulgated by order of the House of Commons, purporting to be the Report of Her Majesty's late High Commissioner, the Earl of Durham, addressed to Her Majesty, on the affairs of British North America, which contains matter so deeply affecting the social as well as political relations of all the provinces, especially of Upper Canada, that it would ill become your committee to pass it over in silence. Indeed, they regret that, at this late period of the session, it is impossible to give the statements and opinions advanced by his Lordship the extensive investigation their importance demands; but your committee will apply themselves with calmness, and they trust with dispassionate zeal, to vindicate the people of Upper Canada, their government and legislature, from charges that imply a want of patriotism and integrity, which they know to be unjust, which they did not expect, and which they grieve to find advanced by a nobleman who had been sent to these provinces to heal rather than foment dissensions, and who certainly should have carefully

Report of Lord Durham.

Containing matter deeply affecting the social and political relations of Upper Canada.

Not time for full investigation of report. Vindication from charges against the people, government and legislature of Upper Canada.