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LETTER FROM MR. HUME TO DR. DUNCOMBE.

In a Toronto paper of the 9th. of January, a document appears, headed as follows:—

“Copy of a letter from the arch traitor, Joseph Hume, to that Judas of all Judasses, Dr Duncombe which was found among the papers of the latter, seized by Col. M'Nab, commanding her Majesty's forces in the London district.” The letter is subjoined:—

“London, June 23, 1837.

“Dear Sir,—By the last packets I have sent three copies of Sir F. Head's despatch to England with the report of the select committee of the House of Assembly of your province in the petition I presented from you to the House of Commons in August last, and three copies of the returns of patents of lands, &c. The letter of Sir F. Head accompanying that despatch is particularly deserving your attention, and without any delay. As Mr Dunn left Toronto in May, I had expected from you, or from the political union, some proofs in evidence and support of the allegations in your petition, the truths of which have been called in question, and denied in no very measured terms, your honour, veracity, and character as a member of parliament and a man, require that you should meet these charges distinctly and separately, or you will stand branded before the country in a manner most unpleasant to yourself and to me, who reposed perfect confidence in the statements you made, and which were believed by Mr Baldwin, and stated in connexion with so many proceedings of which you were an eye-witness that I had no doubt whatever of their truth. The letters I received about that time from Mr M'Kenzie, and those from Mr Baldwin's friends, also concurred in describing the conduct of Sir Francis Head and of his dependents as most unconstitutional and tyrannical, and I described these acts against the liberties of Upper Canadians in such colours as portrayed them in my view.—All these are denied by the committee and Sir Francis Head, and you do not appear before the committee or in the House to have explained or defended your conduct here, which I cannot account for. In whole, or in part, you surely ought to have been able to substantiate some of the charges made by you:—unless, indeed, the loss in your family prevented you or that you would not appear before the committee, so constituted as it was. I have been often in packed committees against my views; but, in the elucidating of truth, and in the exposure of frauds, violence, or abuse of powers, I have

never found any committee able to prevent me. I come in for a tolerable share of abuse, but my conduct was dependent entirely on the credit I gave to your statements if they are wrong I have been in error and must take the consequence? but I would fain hope that you will have been taken measures for meeting every allegation that you and the cause you support may stand forth clear before your countrymen. I will not remain under these charges, if I can by any means return them and for that purpose I have written to Mr Bidwell and Mr Morrison, as I now do you, to send me proofs of your accuracy, and in support of the original charges against the governor. If they are not true, we have done him an injury and must repair it. You will receive a list of the rules for the granting and sale of lands and a complete list of the sales and grants of lands during the time you required; to these your attention must be especially directed and I think you will find ample means for your case in that return. Send certificates of the custom of voting on patents only after two months holding as you stand. The succession of the Queen and the dissolution of Parliament will prevent the Canada proceedings from coming under distinct discussion, except as regards the act for continuing the parliament notwithstanding the demise of the crown. It is alleged that such has been the case before; but that is no reason why the members of Sir Francis Head's parliament should not be sent back to their constituents. I shall endeavour to obtain that for you, but have in the meantime advised addresses to the Queen to that purport. You may also recommend some petition to the new parliament to the same purpose, in case I should not have succeeded for you before that time. I hope if there is an election that the people of Upper Canada will make a better choice than they did at the last, and the new parliament will convince Sir F. Head that he has had his run, and must be sent back to the poor-law commissioners, or to the Brunneus. If he is right in his charges, that you, the Reformers (so styled, as he says), are the few despicable and disloyal party he states you to be, he need not be afraid to appeal, and his success a second time will establish his case. You will have learned that state of money matters before the arrival of the packet from the people's Bank was such as to preclude my attention to your plans.—Matters were little better here.—Expecting soon to hear from you and some others, I remain yours sincerely. “JOSEPH HUME.”

“To Dr. Duncombe, M. P. for Oxford, Upper Canada.”

Adverting to this letter the Toronto paper observes:—

“A commentary is appended to this letter, which states Mr Hume to have been duped, and to have schemed and plotted to revolutionize those provinces, till at length he finds his neck all but in a noose, and it is very far from certain that both he and Mr. Roebuck will not lose their heads, which we imagine but very few would be sorry to hear, but would regard their ignominious death as mere retributive justice for the blood they have wantonly and wickedly caused to be shed: for to the encouragement held out by them to the shallow knaves above-named is fairly to be imputed the present desolate condition of the hundreds of widows and orphans now wailing and lamenting in deafening plaints, resounding throughout the district to Montreal.”

THE EVILS OF POVERTY.—The poverty of the poor man is the least part of his misery. In all the storms of fortune he is the first that must stand the shock of extremity. Poor men are perpetual sentinels, watching in the depths of night against the incessant assaults of want; while the rich lie stored in secure repose and compassed with a large abundance. If the land be visited with a bloodless famine, are not the poor those that are exposed to the enemy's sword and outrage? If the plague, like a loaded sponge, flies sprinkling poison through a whole kingdom, the poor are the fruit that are shaken from the burthened tree; while the rich, furnished with the helps of fortune, have means to wind out themselves and turn those sad endurance on the poor that cannot avoid them. Like salt marshes, that lie low, they are sure whenever the sea of this world rages, to be first under, and embarrassed with a fretting care. Who, like the poor, are harrowed with oppression, ever subject to the imperious taxes and the gripes of mightiness? Continual care checks the spirit, continual labour checks the body, and continual insultation both. The poor man is like one rowled in a vessel full of spikes, which waysoever he turns he something finds that pricks him.—Owen Feltham.

IMMENSITY OF CREATION.—Some astronomers have computed that there are not less than 75 millions of suns in the universe. The fixed stars are all suns, having like our sun, numerous planets revolving round them. The solar system, or that to which we belong, has about thirty planets, primary and secondary belonging to it. The Circular field of space which it occupies is in diameter three thousand six hundred millions of miles, and that which it controls much greater. The sun which is nearest neighbour to ours is called Sirius, distant from our sun about 22 millions of miles. Now, if all the fixed stars are as distant from each other as Sirius is from our sun or if our solar system be the average magnitude of all the systems of the 75 millions of suns, what imagination can grasp the immensity of creation! Who can survey a plantation containing seventy-five millions of circular fields, each ten billions of miles in diameter? Such however is one of the plantations of Him who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand—meted our heaven with a span—comprehended

the dust of the earth in a measure—and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance. He who “sitting upon the orbit of the earth, stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.” Nations to Him are “as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance;” and yet, overwhelming thought! he says, “though I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also will I dwell who is of an humble and contrite spirit and trembles at my word!”—*Christian Almanack for 1838.*

DRUNKENNESS.—When this vice has fast hold of a man, farewell industry, farewell emulation, farewell attention to things worthy of attention, farewell love of virtuous society, farewell decency of members, and farewell to even an attention to person: every thing is turned by this predominant and brutal habit. In how many instances do we hear of men who have begun life with the brightest prospects before them and who have closed it without one ray of comfort and consolation? young men with good fortunes, good talent, good tempers, good hearts and sound constitutions, only by being drawing into the vortex of the drunkard, have become by degrees, the most loathsome and despicable of mankind. In the house of the drunkard there is no happiness for any one—all is uncertainty and anxiety; he is not the same man for any one day at a time; no one knows anything of his out-goings or in-comings; when he will rise, or when he will lie down to rest is wholly a matter to chance; that which swallows for what he calls pleasure brings pain; as surely as the night brings morning, poverty and misery are the train. To avoid these results we are called upon to make no sacrifice—abstinence requires no aid to accomplish it; our own will is all that is requisite, and if we have not the will to avoid contempt, disgrace and misery, we deserve neither relief nor compassion.—*Cobbett.*

MOUNTAINS OF HERRINGS.—The *Pilote du Caléados* announces that the vessels engaged in the cod-fisheries at Newfoundland, have ascertained that there are in the waters such immense shoals of herrings, that they may be called submarine mountains of fish! They also state that the fish are larger and of finer quality than any that have hitherto been caught either at the Orkneys or on the coast of Holland. It is added, that several vessels will be sent from Granville and other ports of the channel to explore this new fishery as soon as the season opens.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. M'Kinnon, seeing the Secretary for the Treasury in his place, wished to put a question to him of an extremely important nature relative to the West India interests. He wished to know whether or not it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to set up any thing like a steam communication between England and the West Indies? If the Right Hon. gentleman was not prepared at the present moment to answer the question, perhaps he would be kind enough to name on what day he would do so?

Mr. F. Baring said that a plan had been suggested to Government for a very large communication indeed by steam, not only with the West Indies but the whole of the American colonies. That the plan was now under consideration, and with respect to that part relating to communication between England and the West India colonies, he had the best hopes with respect to it, and thought it was very likely to be practicable. With regard to the other parts of the plan, he was afraid much greater difficulties would attend it; and he, therefore, could not state that it was the intention of Her Ma-