PARLIAMENT OF UPPER CANADA.

House of Assembly.

FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

To the Hon. the Commons House of Assembly:—

The Committee to whom was referred the important subject of Education and the School Lands, beg leave to report a Bill for the establishment, management and regulation of Common Schools, by which they propose repealing all the existing laws relating to that subject. By the present law no annual charge against the public revenue for the support of Common Schools is £9,500. Your Committee proposed adding to this charge the sum of £1,000, making an annual charge against the Provincial funds of £10,000; and your Committee propose that the sum of £10,000 shall be raised by assessment, by order of the Quarter Sessions in the several Districts, on the taxable property in the same manner as other assessments are now raised. In making up their minds upon this important part of the scheme of common school education by assessment upon the people, which the Bill proposes to establish, your Committee were very forcibly struck with the reasonings of Dr. Chalmers, in his very powerful work, in 1816, entitled "Christian and Civic Economy of Populous Schools in Scotland," and take the liberty of transcribing the Doctor's own words as applicable to a good system of common school education:—In treating of a system of free schools, he says:—"It both pleases the population the necessity of making the first movement after scholarship for their children, and it puts a home the necessity of contributing for the object any portion of their abundance. For the completion of such a system it were enough that schools and school masters should be within every little district of the land, that the state's salary provided for the teachers so, without the exertion of any fee, would enable them to render a full equity of scholarship to the families at the public expense. In this way the people would be fully met with an apparatus, broadly and visibly obtruded upon their notice; and yet we are far from thinking that it would either create a naive and universal habit of education in a country—or arrest the process of its degradation in learning—or sustain the practice of parents sending their children to school, and so stimulating and watching over the progress of the rising generation, as would lead to the formation of a well taught and well informed peasantry.

It is on reasonings your Committee now fully and entirely concur; and humbly trust that the details of the Bill are calculated to reduce the theory into practice. It will be observed that your Committee have not been unmindful of providing for the gratuitous education of the children of indigent persons, and trust that by the general system of education which will be adopted during the present session, means will be provided by which the children of such persons, who possess talent, shall have the advantages of those who possess means only, and may pass through the highest seminaries of learning. For your Committee hold, "that the true secret of managing a people, is not so much to curb as to enlighten them; and that a moral in of far mightier operation than a physical force, in controlling the elements of political disorder."

"*What is gotten for no value is rated at no value. What may be obtained without cost is money. What often counted unworthy of any cost in pains. What parents do not pay for the acquirement of, children will not be so urgent for the acquirement of. To be away from school, or to be idle at school, is a matter of pecuniary loss will far more readily be a matter of continence.* There is no doubt a loss of either advantage but these under a loose and gratuitous system of education, will be but held in capricious demand, and in slender estimation. The only way of thoroughly incorporating the education of the young with the habit of family, is for the state to form a part of the family expenditure, and then to make the interest, and the watchfulness, and the jealousy of parents, so many guarantees for the diligence of their children. And for these reasons do we hold the establishment of free schools in a country, to be a fruit and impolitic expedient, for the object of their upholding a high tone of scholarship among our laboring classes, or of rendering the habit, but at all general, or of perpetuating the habit from generation to generation.

"And such a system has not a more adverse influence on the scholars than it has upon the teachers. Let a man deal in any article whatever, and there is not a more effective security of the good quality of what he deals in, than the contempt and the guardianship of his own customers. The teacher of a free school is under no such dependence. It is a true, that he may be paid according to the proficiency of the learners; but the parent who can instantly withdraw his children, is a far more jealous inquisitor into this matter than the official examinator."

On the subject of endowing schools, the same author says:—"Not leaving education without any endowment, to the vending operation of demand and supply—nor so endowing it, as to hold out a gratuitous education to all who shall require it;—not even endowing a restricted number of scholars to this extent, and leaving the rest to the necessity of exerting an unendowed price from the scholars who resort to them—but endowing schools on far as to furnish education to the people."

On the subject of municipal and interior management in a general system of common school education, the same learned author says:—"What would be the city of management most out do in the great, several distinct and independent bodies of management might be able to do in the detail. One thing is certain, that any such smaller body will act with an impetus and a vigour of which a vast general society is utterly incapable. This would be the first effect of a subdivision in the field of agency. Let it only be broken down into manageable sections, and the influence will be the same with that which comes upon a man's whole energy and spirit, when any concern with which he is associated is so reduced from the hopelessly and impracticably vast, as to be brought within the compass of his probable attainment;" again he says:—"Let each separate agency link itself with a subject that there is some hope of finishing, and thus suit the dimensions to the real mediocrity of human power. Then in this humbler but sounder way of it, a universal result will be far more surely and speedily obtained."

Your Committee being aware that the object of His late Majesty in making a grant of School Lands in 1797, was for the establishment of Grammar Schools in the several Districts, and a University at the seat of Government, have felt it their bounden duty to report herewith the draft of an address to His Majesty, praying for a grant of one million of acres of the Crown Lands, to form a fund for the endowment of Common Schools; because, that although in a most cheering and flourishing state, the population of the Province in point of population is very different now from 1797 which it will exhibit in the lapse of a few years. The demand for education in the various Townships now settled and hereafter to be laid out, will be vastly increased by the great flow of the redundant population of the Mother Country, so happily directed towards this Province, and for whose benefit, by affording the means of educating their children in the situations that may be allotted them, His Majesty will feel a paternal regard.

All which is respectfully submitted.

M. Brawner, *Chairman.*

Committee Room,
House of Assembly, Dec. 5, 1836.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly leave to approach your Majesty in the humble but confident assurance, that the paternal affection which your Majesty has exhibited towards this flourishing Colony, will induce your Majesty to receive, in a favourable manner, this our earnest supplication, concerning a matter upon which, above all other, property and happiness chiefly depends.

We beg leave, most humbly, to represent to your Majesty, that at a very early period, the attention of the Provincial Legislature was most earnestly turned to the devising of measures for effectually promoting the education of the people, and in pursuance of this object, they prayed your Majesty's Royal Father, of illustrious memory, for a grant of land to enable them more easily to establish a fund for Public Instruction; their prayer was most graciously answered, and an appropriation was made in order to produce a fund for the establishment and support of a respectable Grammar School in each District of the Province; and also of a College or University for the instruction of youth in the different branches of liberal knowledge—an appropriation which daily reminds us of the paternal solicitude of your Majesty's illustrious House.

We beg leave further to represent to your Majesty, that the appropriation having been especially directed towards the establishment of a University and Grammar Schools, to which, without Legislative aid, it is not at present sufficient, no part can be directed towards the support of Common Schools. That deeply sensible of the benefits of dispensing knowledge among the people, the Legislature for the last sixteen years has appropriated a large portion of the Revenue of the Province towards this laudable purpose, but being an inland country, the Revenue is, and must ever continue to be, comparatively small, and the rapid increase of the population, and the burdens incident to first settlers, make all that can be spared totally inadequate to the object intended; we are therefore emboldened to submit to your Majesty's favorable consideration the propriety of granting an additional appropriation of one million of acres of the waste lands of the Crown in this Province.

We beg leave further to represent to your Majesty, that such an appropriation, judiciously managed, might in time produce a very considerable income, in aid of such grants as may be made from the Provincial Revenue, and such special assessments as may be imposed upon the people for the education of their children, and thus relieve them from a portion of the burthen which now bears very hard upon their limited income.

We beg leave further to represent to your Majesty, that for greater appropriations, in proportion to the extent and population of the countries, for the purposes of education, than that now prayed for, have been and are now liberally made in the neighbouring States of America, and and much to the intelligence and prosperity of the wealth and happiness of their inhabitants.

We therefore venture to hope, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct the Provincial Government to set apart one million of acres as prayed for, to form a fund for the support of Common Schools, throughout this loyal, extensive and magnificent Province.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 1837.

We beg to inform our Subscribers in Upper Canada, that Mr. Benny Patent, now on a tour through that Province, is authorized to collect all arrears due to this paper, as well as the subscriptions for the current year. When the low price of the paper is considered, it is to be hoped that our patrons, in town and country, will be punctual in conforming to our conditions.

The MORNING COURIER is published at the Office in *St. François Xavier Street*, Montreal, Daily throughout the year, Sundays excepted, for the sum of Six Dollars delivered in Town, or Eight Dollars if sent by Mail, payable in advance—*a small fraction over one penny per number in town, and not three halfpence per number in the country.* It gives the latest News, Foreign and domestic, and a Weekly Prices Current carefully corrected, accompanied with general observations on the state and fluctuations of the Markets.

The MORNING COURIER FOR THE COUNTRY is published on Mondays and Thursdays, and contains all the reading and commercial matter of the daily paper. Subscription Four Dollars in Town, or Five Dollars if sent by Mail, *payable in advance.*

Halifax papers to the 19th ult. were received yesterday.

We have extracted a pretty full account of the dreadful conflagration at St. John, (N. B.) It fully confirms the report of this calamity previously received by way of New York.

The town of Wilmot, Nova Scotia, was nearly altogether destroyed by the sea, in a storm on the 5th ultimo.

The New Brunswick Legislature has determined to adopt the bill sent out by the Colonial Secretary, and to close the bargain arranged with His Majesty's Government by the Delegates.

The Nova Scotia Elections have terminated. Of the fifty Members returned, seventeen were of the last Assembly. The *Novascotian* says:—"Whether the cause of Reform has obtained a decided majority, remains to be proved; we are a little doubtful of it, particularly when the seductive influences of the Capital are brought to bear on the wavering and undecided; at all events, there will be at least a pretty strong fighting minority, who will see that the Officials and their defenders do not have things all their "own way."

The inhabitants of Upper Canada and their Legislature do not pull well together on the subject of Banks. That is certain. Almost every scheme, of the many that have been proposed and brought under the notice of the Assembly, has fallen through. They have either been strangled at their birth, in the Assembly; or, in accordance with some inexplicable course of proceeding of the Legislative Council, they have been quietly stifled by that body, after their passage through the Lower House. It must be confessed that, in the matter of Banks, the public mind has exhibited symptoms of disease; still, it is plainly visible that the opposition to the increase of these institutions, manifested by one branch of the Legislature, is traceable to interested motives, and not to good and substantial reasons.

We have just learned that the Provincial Bank Bill, rather a foolish project, has been thrown out in the House of Assembly, by a majority of one, in the great mortification, it is stated, of the friends of the measure.

Mr. M'Nab introduced a motion of amendment, allowing the three established Banks to merge into the Provincial Bank, if within three years they thought fit to do so—which amendment, however, was lost. Mr. HOYRAN then proposed, seconded by Mr. KEARNS, that the Bill be not now read a second time—but that it be read six months hence, which was carried, and the Bill of course lost.

Thus terminates another banking hallucination.

A petition was lately presented to the Senate of the State of New York, from WEBSTER, by Mr. CLAY, praying that Papists may not be admitted to naturalization, unless they renounce the Roman creed, and praying for a Committee to examine the vaults of monasteries, Catholic churches, and report once in six months.

The *New York Commercial Advertiser* of Thursday states that letters from Washington announce that the President was again attacked with a hemorrhage of the lungs on Saturday, which was so severe as to revive the apprehensions that he would scarce survive till the close of his term. He was, however, mending again at the last advices.

The author of the observations on a Metallic Currency, takes a just view of the Currency bill of the last Session of the Upper Canada Parliament, to which we have often had occasion to refer. We subjoin his remarks, and some strictures of the *Toronto Constitution*, which go to show, that certain official characters are now anxious to have that Act repealed.

From Observations on a Metallic Currency.

But as our remittances are chiefly to the mother country, and as the English government guarantees the redemption of these coins at their nominal rate, we might, I think, very safely place them with us at a value equivalent to that at which they pass in the circulation at home.—This has been very properly done in Upper Canada by the 5th Will. 4. c. 27, as respects the crown and half-crown, which are declared legal tenders at six shillings, and three shillings, currency, respectively, being 8 per cent. above the nominal, and a very small fraction over the real par.—But I regretfully add, that a serious deviation from this standard has been made, by the same act in favour of the shilling and six pence; which at one shilling and three pence, and seven pence half-penny, currency, respectively, are enhanced upwards of 4 per cent. above the crown and half-crown. Had the shilling and sixpence been limited, as a legal tender, to not over £5 at one time, and so kept in moderate supply, the comparatively higher value given to these pieces might not lead to any very mischievous tendency; while they would, as a subsidiary part of the currency, be found of great use as "small change." But as the law now stands, allowing them to be a legal tender to an indefinite amount, the public utility of the standard given to British silver, will be, in a great measure, defeated by the Banks drawing into their coffers, and using for exportation the sounder portions of the currency, and tendering in payment the most debased. It cannot, I should suppose, be doubted for a moment, but that the above act has armed the monied institutions with a most arbitrary power over the financial affairs of the Province. This seems to be the view taken by the government at home.

From the Toronto Constitution, of Jan 18.

It will be recollected that in the early part of the present year I made a strong and decided stand against a multiplicity of reformers and tories, when they brought in a bill to cheat the public out tamper with the currency. I talked myself hoarse in opposing the delusive measure, but in vain. The U. C. Gore and Midland District Bank people were in favour of it—Head and his crew were for it—Hagerman delighted in it—and all I could get was an amendment embodying my views on the Journals. The Bill passed;—many persons were defrauded by it—the Banks *bettered* their creditors—and next for sixpences and shillings to London, to pay their debts in coin 15 per cent under the value of American or Lower Canada money. But they began to cheat the pensioner and salary man. The Chief Justice receives 41,320 shillings, and as our lawmakers had changed the value of a shilling from 14 to 15 pence, the Bank paid Mr. Robinson 2754 shillings less than the previous year, although the nominal sum was the same. Off went to Europe, and the Colonial Office has sent out an order that all things shall remain as they are, unless said Office permit it to be otherwise. Prince, Hagerman, and the other worthies who want to get rich in a moment, begin to cry out "Mackenzie was right," and M'Nab, who cares for plunder more than for the Farmers, stands readily primed and charged to fire off Mr. Bidwell's great gun, in the form of an address against the baneful domination!

The *Ami du Peuple* of yesterday treats its readers to about a column of explanatory remarks, concerning its *selected* article from the *London Herald* on Saturday. The extract, it says, "accidentally appeared." Lord WINCHELSEA, the most determined and violent opponent of Catholic emancipation, is fortunate in having his vituperings transferred "accidentally" to a journal generally supposed to be under the immediate patronage of the Clergy of the Romish Church. The *Ami*'s explanation is loaded with abuse of this journal, prompted apparently by the most malevolent feelings, and conveyed in the most vulgar language. As there is not the slightest approximation to gentlemanlike feeling, or truth, in our contemporary's article, we scorn to comment upon it.

Upper Canada.

FIRE.—On Sunday afternoon last, the malt-house, belonging to David King, distiller and brewer, Lanark, caught fire, and was in a short time totally destroyed. It seems that this unfortunate occurrence was attended with serious loss to the owner, as the most of his property was stored within the apartment in which the fire commenced, and there being no one in at the time, very little was saved. A subscription has been got up, to relieve the unfortunate sufferer.—*Bathurst Courier.*

So the Prince Edward Bank Bill, after having struggled through the House of Assembly, has expired in the Legislative Council! Well we know that such an institution is very much needed here, that money is scarce, and that for want of the proper Banking accommodation, our trade languishes, and many a useful project is abandoned, but some of our new Legislators will not believe this, they think that we can do very well without a Bank, and they are determined that we shall have none. We trust, however, that Parliament in its wisdom, will charter other Banks this year, so as to increase the Capital of the Country, and then indirectly we shall be benefited by it.—*Hallowell Traveller.*

Dreadful Fire at St. John, N. B.

Extracts from private letters, with which we have been obligingly favoured.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, *January 16.*

"Awful has been the last thirty-six hours, the tremendous conflagration with which we have been visited, is now nearly at an end. We have just time to give you a sketch for the Gazette. The fire commenced in Knowlton & Gilston's store—they have lost every thing; books, papers and all, and no insurance. The fire spread with fearful rapidity. I had hardly time to pack up books and papers, when Merritt's warehouse in Tisdale's corner and thence down the South Wharf to Slimmer's, in a heap of ruins yet blazing. On the other side of Water street, from Lowe's back building inclusive, in rear of the Bank of New Brunswick, to Chedwick's corner, all gone; thence up the south side of the square, to M'Grady's corner, except Peter's brick building, which is entire. From M'Grady's corner down the west side of Prince William street to Johnston's stairs, all gone. Sands' buildings and Walker's stone store have left some trees, but all else is gone. On the east side of Prince William street, Donnelly's corner is burned—Mr. Boyd's and the City Bank had a narrow escape—thence northerly along the east side of Prince William street all burned, to Nichol's store inclusive—the south wall of Disbrow's brick building, occupied by Miss Farley, being fire proof, saved King street and the rest of the city. Disbrow's brick building stopped it from going up Cooper's Alley, but great exertions had to be made to stop it in rear of Nichol's brick building. The wind was N. N. W. pretty fresh, and sparks and brands were frightfully flying in vessels harbour, but many had their masts and rigging on fire, and were obliged to cut all away. The *Gazelle* was got under way, and dragged the vessels out of the slips as fast as they floated, for it was near low water. Many of these hulks now lay off in the stream almost sinking. The destruction of property is awful—amount roughly estimated at £400,000, but as yet it is all conjecture."

"January 15.—The City Bank is preserved, I know not how. Mr. Black's house is a heap of ashes, and standing at the Commercial door. You may survey the whole scene of devastation, which presents to the eye only Peter's brick building remaining, and proving its fire proof character, and Miss Farley's store, the two banks, and Miss Farley's store, the stone and brick building caused to burn as rapidly as the wood, as soon—the fire ran through Trueman's, Chipman's stores, Nichol's store, Sands' and Hatfield's build. The crowns and half-crowns. Had the shilling and sixpence been limited, as a legal tender, to not over £5 at one time, and so kept in moderate supply, the comparatively higher value given to these pieces might not lead to any very mischievous tendency; while they would, as a subsidiary part of the currency, be found of great use as "small change." But as the law now stands, allowing them to be a legal tender to an indefinite amount, the public utility of the standard given to British silver, will be, in a great measure, defeated by the Banks drawing into their coffers, and using for exportation the sounder portions of the currency, and tendering in payment the most debased. It cannot, I should suppose, be doubted for a moment, but that the above act has armed the monied institutions with a most arbitrary power over the financial affairs of the Province. This seems to be the view taken by the government at home.

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Commercial.

The quantity of domestic salt inspected last year, at Salina, Syracuse, Liverpool and Geddes, in the State of New York, amounted to 1,912,858 bushels, which is less than the quantity in 1835 by 297,903 bushels. This decrease is said to be owing to the coldness of the season.

On our first page will be found a Statement of the Imports and Exports of the Province in the year 1836, copied from the Quebec Mercury, from which a pretty correct estimate of the trade of the Canadas may be formed. Some errors have crept into the statement, the most important of which is in the item of Pot Ashes, stated to be 489,149 gals. at Quebec and Montreal, whereas 106,329 is the correct amount. We suspect there is also a mistake in the item of Pine Timber exported, but have not the means of correcting it. In the last Quebec Gazette, a correspondent complains, that in this document no import of Wheat appears; it is certainly desirable that the quantity of the grain brought into the Province by our last season, should have been stated, instead of being included in the item "value of *free goods*." We will make a calculation of the value of the Imports at Montreal and Quebec as detailed in the document, at the average prices of the year, and converting the error in Pot Wine alluded to, it amounts to £3,320,746 currency. For the perfect accuracy of this estimate we are not prepared to vouch, but if the details of quantities be correct, it cannot be far from the mark. Upon the Exports we have not attempted to do a value, as many articles differing materially in price being included in the same item—for instance, red and white Pine, Staves, &c.

Some of our merchants should having experienced a wish to know the exact proportions of the imports by sea at the respective ports of Quebec and Montreal, we have been at the trouble to compile the comparative table which is subjoined. It must be borne in mind, in perusing this table, that of many articles which appear to be imported in larger quantities at Quebec than Montreal, such as Rum, raw Sugar, Salt, &c., perhaps not less than two-thirds of them ultimately find a market in Montreal.

There will also be found below, a Statement of the declared value in sterling money of the Imports at Montreal, for which we are indebted to the Collector and Comptroller of the Customs. The value affixed to the various articles is the first cost at the port of export, without charges of any kind.

Imports into the Ports of Quebec and Montreal in the year ending 5th January, 1837, distinguishing the Imports into each Port.

	Quebec.	Montreal.
Ashes, Pearl	1,000	1,000
Ashes, Pot	1,000	1,000
Beef, Barrels	1,000	1,000
Beef, Tierces	1,000	1,000
Beef, Hogsheads