

an argument for the repeal of the obnoxious law. That the respectable individuals in question may have talked loosely among themselves on the subject, I can easily believe: for in this country, as in almost every other, any project that has not better reasons to support it, is always backed, in its own imagination, by some dangerous phantom: or other to alarm and dazzle and convince. But even such talking, if not legally criminal, is at least morally so, as tending, both, directly and indirectly to undermine the foundations of peace and order,—foundations in whose stability, every permanent resident in the country, however poor and humble, has a deeper interest than myself. If men wish to be free, they must not only obey the law themselves, but must by all lawful means prevent others from disobeying it,—every man's own obedience being the price of that freedom which the obedience of others alone can secure. But to return to the distillers; selfish discontent is the most culpable on the part of those, whose sole grievance it is, that Providence has blessed them with more than man will allow them to destroy, when contrasted with the self-denying cheerfulness of their less fortunate brethren, who, through the happily rare coincidence of a bad hunt and a bad harvest, are now enduring the most severe privations with the most heroic fortitude.

57. If the duty of obeying the law is to bear any proportion to the value of what the law protects, then must such duty be peculiarly binding on the citizens of Red River Settlement. Their lot has been cast in a land, in which industry is more independent than in any other of the accidents of fortune; and in which illness is in a great measure, exempted from the miseries, and placed above the temptations of less favoured climes; in which the savings of economy, when prudently employed in trade, yield almost unexampled returns; and in which even want, when it does come, is not aggravated by those artificial feelings, which elsewhere embitter the evils of poverty through the shame of disclosing them. Such of you as occasionally read the newspapers of the distant world, must see for how much you have to be thankful, and of how little you have to complain, possessing nearly all the happiness of civilized life, with the smallest possible alloy of its toils and its cares. In a word, you enjoy, almost as freely as air and water, the blessings for which God's chosen people prayed as the covenanted reward of national obedience; and it has often struck me that the beautiful petition of David, while, at the lowest ebb of his fortunes, he was fleeing from the face of his rebellious son, embodies a true picture of your enviable condition.

58. When I see your healthy and comely families nestling in wedded life around you almost as closely as the hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, I may well repeat: "Your sons grow up as the young plants, and your daughters as the polished corners of the temple." When I ride between your almost spontaneous harvests and your untended flocks, I may again exclaim: "Your garner is filled with all manner of store, and your sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in your streets." When I observe your gigantic cattle lending their patient strength to your ploughs and again replacing the loan out of the cheap pastures of your plains, I may still ejaculate: "Your oxen are strong to labour, and there is no decay." When I consider, that you know war and bondage only as the scourges of our lands,