

REPORT.

WHEN an alarm of fire is given in our City, how great is the excitement which it causes—what a rush is forthwith made to the threatened spot, and how eager is every one to ascertain whether their own property, or the property of some particular friend is threatened with destruction. Every pursuit is for the time thrown aside, until feelings of duty or friendship, or perhaps of curiosity have been fully gratified—the very concerns of eternity are for the moment interrupted, by the warning of such a calamity, and the place of public worship is often abandoned with indecent precipitation. How much more intense would the feeling be, if a decree were to go forth, from which there was no escape, and no remedy, that on a certain day, two of the inhabitants of Toronto must leave the city, never to return—that the sentence left two roads open to them—one which would lead them to a new, and a secure and happy home, and the other terminating in a precipice, often unseen by travellers, where death must be inevitable. Supposing one of the doomed travellers to approach the fatal road, how anxiously would his benevolent neighbours warn him of his danger, cast themselves in his way, and implore him to take the road which would alone lead to safety. It might be all in vain, and the devoted traveller might madly rush on his own destruction, and be seen no more. How long would such an occurrence be cherished in the annals of the city! It would be the fireside tale for generations. But, if instead of one solitary event of this kind, a law were passed that every day on which the sun rose, two of the inhabitants of Toronto must leave the city for ever, by one or other of these roads—oh! how deep would be the desire to save the lives of those who should in their turn go forth. To convince the whole inhabitants of the awful danger of the one road, and the safety of the other, would become an overwhelming pursuit with all who loved their neighbours. From morning to night would the benevolent ply the houses of the inhabitants, and urge them to go out, and survey the two roads, before it should be their turn to leave the city. With eager haste would the news fly from street to street, that one had been seen to approach the precipice. Then