

from the work. General Hunter referred the letter to colonel Mann, of the Engineers. His report, however, threw no light on the subject, and its tone was more in opposition to than in encouragement of the project. Mackenzie's letter, however, is a proof that the requirements of the work were well known at this early period, although thirty-two years were to elapse before any steps were taken for the construction of the Cornwall canal, the first of the series undertaken.*

The population had steadily increased. In 1806 Bouchette estimated it to be 70,718.† No census was authoritatively taken until 1825, when the number given is 150,066, so, if not exact, the theory submitted at the earlier date cannot be much astray. These were not the days of statistics, but, as there was no particular view to be sustained by misrepresentation of figures, a *consensus* of opinion on the point may be accepted approximately as the truth.

Hitherto there had been little question of any political rights. The population had been engaged in providing for the wants of existence. The early settlers, the U. E. loyalists, were for the most part living in comfort, many were rich and were filling the positions of magistrates and offices of trust. A good class of emigrants had likewise arrived from the north of Scotland, many from Ireland. Generally speaking, they were frugal, and by care and self-denial had placed themselves in comfort. There had been also an emigration from the United States, independently of the loyalists, of Dutch farmers from Pennsylvania, many of them Quakers and belonging to the agricultural population. These emigrants gave no ground for complaint; on the contrary, the majority proved industrious, orderly and a welcome addition to the province. But there were several who had come from the United States in the spirit of adventure; among them deserters from the Detroit and other garrisons. Such as

* In 1817, sir Francis Gore, as lieutenant-governor, in the opening speech of the session of the 2nd of February, pointed out that the water communication below Prescott deserved the serious attention of parliament. The Cornwall canal was not commenced before 1834.

† Vol. II., p. 235.