

according to common report, it appears that the inhabitants in the county of Gaspé have lost all confidence in the provincial court. I was present at St. Pierre when Mr. Hamilton arrived at the house of Captain William Alexander, who resides there. It was in the beginning of September last, as far as I can recollect. Captain Alexander asked him, "How does it happen, Mr. Hamilton, that I lost my cause against Andrew Rooney?" He answered, "It is the fault of your clerk, for if you had a clerk like Mr. Samuel Ray, I should not lose a single cause." This Mr. Samuel Ray is a bailiff of the said provincial court, and is the clerk or the man of business of Henry Bisset Johnston, esq., merchant at Point St. Peter. Mr. Hamilton on another occasion stated in my presence, and in the presence also of the said Samuel Ray, that the said Samuel Ray was a witness of his, who would state anything he (Hamilton) desired him, in the causes in which he was employed as advocate. And it is the general reputation of the said Samuel Ray, in Gaspé Bay and at Percé, that he is a witness of very doubtful character, to say nothing more. Mr. Hamilton is one of the practitioners in the said court, and is generally said to be the nephew of the said judge.

Wednesday, 2 December 1835.

Mr. *Nicholas Allard*, heretofore of Carleton, in the county of Bonaventure, at present residing in Quebec, called in; and being Interrogated, answered:

I HAVE known the Honourable John Gawler Thompson as judge of His Majesty's provincial court for the inferior district of Gaspé, since the year 1827. I was present at the term of the said court held at Carleton aforesaid in July 1832. I remained at Carleton during the whole of the said term, and I attended each day the then pretended sittings of the said court. The judge proceeded to the place where the court is held, that is to say, in a building erected upon the Carleton beach, where he opened the court, and adjourned it immediately. The judge usually sat at the head of the table in the court-room. I have seen him resting both his hands upon the table, trembling from head to foot, ordering the prothonotary of the court, Amasa Bebee, esq., to close several of the sittings of the said court immediately, alleging that he was afraid of the cholera. I also saw the aforesaid prothonotary, and the other officers of the said court, proceed on one of the sitting days of the said court to the house where the judge boarded; that is to say, in the house of Hilary Michaud, esq., of Carleton, in order to hold the court there. The people assembled there, and I was one of those who got into the room then occupied by the judge in that house. The judge was then sitting at a small table: the aforesaid prothonotary and the other officers of the court sat down at the same table. A few causes were called, but nothing more was done. This pretended sitting of the court lasted about 20 minutes. There was a good many people present, and several of them were politely turned out, on the plea that that was not the place where the court is usually held at Carleton aforesaid, but the private apartment of the judge. I can take upon myself to say, that during the whole of the said term the said judge was intoxicated at the opening of the court each day. This is my firm conviction, and it is also what the inhabitants of Carleton believed and stated publicly. There was a great deal of business before the court during the said term, but it was not proceeded upon, the court being merely opened for form sake, and then adjourned. There was no case of Asiatic cholera at Carleton that I am aware of, nor even in the district, in the year 1832. The general opinion at Carleton was, that the said judge was in a state of intoxication when he said that he could not hold the court in consequence of his dread of the Asiatic cholera, as he pretended. I observed at that time to several of the inhabitants, that if I were one of them I should send petitions to Quebec, complaining of the said judge, and praying for his removal; they answered that it was difficult for them to do so, by reason of their distance from Quebec. I have traded for a number of years back, along the coast of the inferior district of Gaspé, and I can say that the public in general accuse the judge of being too much addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, and of being incapable of fulfilling his judicial functions, by reason, among other things, of his intemperance. The inhabitants have no confidence in the said court, and they generally say (to make use of their own expression) "it is not a court; it is a pigsty (*cochonnerie*);" and every one laughs at it. According to public rumour, and to my personal knowledge, the said judge is considered a drunkard to this day. It is to my knowledge that the said judge goes to hold the court at Carleton generally on the day before the term commences, and that he leaves on the last day of the term. Of this I have a knowledge, being almost always at Carleton during the term of the court, on my own business. Great inconvenience is occasioned in the despatch of business by this practice.

Saturday, 26 December 1835.

George *Mellis Douglass*, esq., Physician, at present residing in the city of Quebec, called in; and being Interrogated, answered:

I RESIDED in the county of Bonaventure, in the inferior district of Gaspé, from the fall of 1827 until the month of July 1833, when I left that place in order to reside in Quebec. I was at Gaspé Basin in the said inferior district about the 3d November last, and I was at Carlisle in the county of Bonaventure about the 19th or 20th of the same month, which place I left on the 21st. The court-house for the county of Bonaventure is situate in New Carlisle, and the Honourable John Gawler Thompson resides at Paspébiac, at a distance of about five miles from the court-house. I remained three days in New Carlisle, and started from thence for Quebec, where I arrived on the 15th instant, having come by the Métis road. When I arrived.