

to carry out the measures of Mr. Pitt—the Division of the Provinces. When Mr. Merritt heard of this appointment he paid the Governor a visit, which resulted in his arranging his affairs at New York and bringing his family to Canada as a U. E. settler. He soon obtained 2,000 acres of land for his former services and losses sustained by the revolution, as well as an appointment the following year as Commissioner of Woods and Forests. This enabled him to live in comparative comfort, in addition to his half pay.

In 1803 the Sheriff of the District, when he obtained this appointment also.

The following letter explains the circumstances, so that he has just cause to applaud the new Government.

No. 3.

Sheriff's Office, Niagara, 14th April. 1804.

Honoured Father:—

I have the pleasure to inform you that we are all in a tolerable good state of health at this time. We have just recovered from bad colds, which have been very prevalent here this spring, owing to the long and tedious winter that we have had. It has been so hard that many have lost all their stock. I have suffered very much. William Merritt, my brother, has lost all his, excepting one yoke of oxen, which comes hard upon him in a new country, and a new beginner. I shall give him all the assistance in my power, which he stands very much in need of. He and his wife and child are well. He has got a good farm, and with industry and health will get through, notwithstanding his losses. I am now in the town of Niagara, capital of this Province. Thank God, I am doing very well. I have many appointments under Government. The last is, High Sheriff of this part of the country, which is large and thickly settled, and much business to be done.

I hold my half pay as Lieutenant of Dragoons, Surveyor of Woods for this Province, Collector of the King's rents of crown and clergy reserves, and of the fines, &c., of this district. I cannot exactly say, but I think must yield me a sum of two thousand dollars per annum.

Mary wishes very much to come and see you all this summer. I have not heard one syllable from you, or either of the boys or even my sister, Phoebe, in about two years.

It makes me almost afraid to write, for fear that you are not in the land of the living.

Tell my brothers that I shall be very glad to hear from them, if they do not think it worth their while to come and see me.

As for you, my honoured father, I do not ever expect to see you again, so God bless you, Adieu. I have four children. Caroline, William Hamilton, Maria and Susan, and fine prosperous children they are.

As for my son, William (Hon. W. H. Merritt), there are but few