

there should, in this enlightened age, be numbers of persons, proprietors of large tracts of land, who cannot write their names ; would, in many parts of Europe, appear incredible. What would be the astonishment of a Swiss peasant, if he saw, as may often be seen here, the proprietor of two hundred acres of land, undertake a journey of four or five miles, to get a letter read ? In some parishes, there are probably not more than half a dozen persons who can read. Such is the difficulty of procuring instruction, that the country merchants, those persons who conduct the river craft, and others who necessarily require some knowledge of writing and arithmetic ; are obliged to send their children to a great distance, to one of the few places in which they can be educated ; or to engage some poor and illiterate pedagogue to reside in their houses for that purpose. The expence, in either case, is such as few are able, and still fewer are willing, to incur.

THE seventeenth act of the first session of the third Provincial Parliament, enabled the majority of the inhabitants of any parish, to erect a school-house and a house for a teacher, at the joint expence of the parish. And the liberality of the British government has, in every instance in which these accommodations have been provided, discovered itself in granting a salary for the support of the Teacher. But, though nine years have elapsed since this law was enacted, twelve parishes only have yet availed themselves of the assistance which it offered them.* Those

* See the names of those Parishes in the Provincial Accounts laid before the House of Assembly in 1809.