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duty to the House, ere his voice was stilled by the imperative mandate of a dissolution, to deliver the following remonstrance.—Standing, whilst he did so, in front of the members in the Legislative Council Chamber, the commanding height of Mr. Macdonald, his earnest eloquence, his firm and respectful demeanor gave dignity and life to a scene not to be forgotten by the spectators, nor to be obliterated as one of the prominent landmarks of progress in the constitutional history of Canada.

'May it please your Excellency, It has been the immemorial custom of the Speaker of the Commons House of Parliament, to communicate to the Throne, the general result of the deliberations of the Assembly upon the principal objects which have employed the attention of Parliament during the period of their labors. It is not now part of my duty thus to address Your Excellency, inasmuch as there has been no Act passed or judgment of Parliament obtained, since we were honored by Your Excellency's announcement of the cause of summoning the Parliament by your gracious Speech from the Throne. The passing of an Act through its several stages according to the law and custom of Parliament, (solely declared applicable to the Parliamentary proceedings of this Province, by a decision of the Legislative Assembly of 1841,) is held to be necessary to constitute a Session of Parliament. This we have been unable to accomplish, owing to the command which Your Excellency has laid upon us to meet you this day for the purpose of prorogation. At the same time I feel called upon to assure Your Excellency on the part of Her Majesty's faithful Commons, that it is not from any want of respect to yourself or to the August Personage whom you represent in these Provinces, that no answer has been returned by the Legislative Assembly to your gracious speech from the Throne.'

In 1857, Mr. Macdonald's impaired health rendering him for the time unequal to the physical exertion attendant upon the representation of so large and populous a county as Glengarry, he gave way in that constituency to his brother, Mr. D. A. Macdonald, its present representative, and was for the first time elected for the town and township of Cornwall. In 1858, having been induced to accept the position of Attorney General under the short-lived Brown Dorion Administration, he again presented himself before the people of Cornwall and was re-elected unanimously. At the general election which followed at the expiry of the Parliament in 1861, he was again elected for Cornwall, but had to undergo a contest.

At the elections in 1861, the principle of Representation by Population, for some time previously agitated in the Western Section of the Province, was prominently brought forward, and used alike by the extreme reformers and their opponents, whether favorable or otherwise to the Cartier-Macdonald Government, to sway the electors at the polls. The result was, that the organization of the Reform party, to which Mr. Macdonald had always given his loyal adherence, upon any basis affording a promise of harmonious action, appeared to be an impossibility, and 'Double Majority' the only principle that an intelligible ground for union having been repudiated. Mr. Macdonald, during the last session, kept himself free from all party alliances, and occupied a position of isolated independence in the House, which none other of its members, perhaps, could so well afford. This was his position, when in May last, upon the defeat of the Cartier-Macdonald Ministry, he was entrusted by His Excellency the Governor General with the formation of a new Government; and the manner in which he set about and accomplished the work, furnished ample proof that he was quite equal to the occasion: Of the policy of his Government, or its present or future conduct, we do not presume to offer any opinion.

Having adverted to the state of Mr. Macdonald's health in 1857, we may add that whilst his friends have been anxious about it, the cares and labour of office to which he devotes himself with all the energy of his character, and, as those who know him best believe, with motives of the most single-minded patriotism, far from having a prostrating effect upon him, have not caused him the loss of a single day through illness, since his advent to his present position.

In 1840, Mr. Macdonald married a lady from Louisiana, the daughter of a wealthy Senator of the United States who was killed in a duel by the Mayor of New Orleans in 1843. He has four daughters and two sons, the former of an age to unite with their mother, who still survives, in extending to their father's guests those graceful hospitalities, wherein, we are assured, he takes a much

more lively interest than might be expected from one of his severely trained cast of mind and reputed austerity of disposition. His eldest son, some fourteen years old, is in England; and more highly favored than his now distinguished father at that happy age, is a scholar, under circumstances the most auspicious, at the famous Rugby School.

## LETTERS FROM CANADA. No 1.

*Sable and Searle, Liverpool; Ship St. James; Arrival in Canada; Sheriff Sherwood; At Brockville, 1860; Winter at Perth; British Military and Scottish Weaver Colonists; Sir Colin Campbell's Kinsman.*

I know not if Sable & Searle be still in business as passenger agents, at Liverpool. Since Mr. Searle, on the deck of the ship St. James, of Thomestown, State of Maine, 1800 tons burden, transferred the care of 402 passengers to Captain James Colley, and his first mate, Mr. Williams, on the 2nd of July, 1858, I have had no communication with Liverpool, and but little with any place or person in that old netherland which I love so well. I promised Mr. Searle an account of the voyage, and of first appearances in Canada, a task which, at the distance of four years and a half, is begun with greater difficulty and diffidence than if it had been dashed off, as some other travellers have described this country, when looking out of ship-cabin or railway carriage windows. I have made observations and research through the Lower and Upper sections of the Province; crossed the lakes and rounded their shores; wintered in the backwoods, and summered on the cultured frontiers; have rejoiced on both sides of the boundary line to see a happy interchange of traffic and sentiments; but have more lately sorrowed to see that the promises of enduring peace are not so reliable as they once were. The fruitful soil under the plough, or still covered by the primeval forest; the measureless wilderness still unpeopled; the mighty rivers and inland seas, all have been my study; and so also the people and their social life, who are rearing the fabric of a nation—the future Empire of British North America. I aspire to contribute to the utilitarian literature of that nation. A few words, Mr. Searle, about your ship. Our stores were abundant, of prime quality, and served, ever with courtesy and regularity. Captain Colley was a gentleman and a seaman—his mates worthy of their captain and their noble ship. You put on board 402 passengers, and, at Quebec, we landed 403. We loved the ship so well that while she lay at the landing place, under the shadow of the Rock of Quebec, my six young children went on board hourly because, of all the vessels there, that was 'our ship.' When the St. James was moved a mile and a half distant, to be loaded with a cargo, they trudged (the youngest but two years old) up the devious footways every day to see the only thing in Canada that seemed to have friendship or anything loveable for us—the ship. When it was loaded and brought down to an anchorage opposite our lodging, though they could not reach the deck, it was watched by them daily, and when other children saw my group of solitary little strangers sitting on the wharf and asked, 'who are you, where did you come from?' they replied, 'we came from London, in England; that is our ship.' One morning they came to me, some in tears and sobs. 'What is the matter, darlings?' 'Father, our ship is gone away.' And so we were left alone. Captain Colley has since been in Quebec, but I have not seen him. Sickness, from an accident which might have occurred anywhere, came upon my wife, who was all the world to me. She lingered over the winter, and, shortly after, giving a feeble smile of joy at seeing through the windows of her chamber, the first green leaves of our second season at Quebec, she died. And so, I and my six child-

ren, were, in a far more grievous sense, left alone.

On landing from the steamer, Ban-shee, at Brockville, 16th September, 1860, an elderly gentleman, tall and stately, made a remark to me about the drizzly pathway, and after walking on the same wayward about a hundred yards, he inquired if I were newly arrived in Canada. I answered that I had been in Canada over two years, but was a stranger here, that I had come from Quebec, and lastly from Montreal to see the glorious River St. Lawrence, its Rapids and Islands, its lovely shores and this pretty town of Brockville; the farm land and forest in rear of the town; and to gather up fragments of unwritten tradition and biography from which to construct a history of that portion of Central Canada. 'To begin' said I, 'my first desire is to meet the oldest inhabitant;' well sir, you have met both the oldest inhabitant and the first. I came here with my father in 1784.

That gentleman was Adiel Sherwood, Sheriff of the county of Leeds, still enjoying the serene evening of his active life. The site of Brockville was surveyed in the year 1783; but no habitations were built until the arrival of the Sherwoods and other U. E. Loyalists. These were refugee Tories, from the revolutionary war, who, adhering to British connection when the United Colonies of North America revolted, came to Lower Canada, took arms in the service of George III., and were called United Empire Loyalists. It was from their ranks that the party of Canadian Tories arose which, after the invasion of Canada by the Americans in 1812-14, and after gallantly repulsing the invaders, assumed themselves to be exclusively loyal, and designed by Providence, to be the fathers of a ruling aristocracy. Until the Rebellion, in 1837, they, and newer adherents from Britain, dominated in Upper Canada, as the Family Compact; yet many U. E. Loyalists and their families, were not admitted within, or, from political choice, remained outside of that highly aspiring circle.

In 1816, Adiel Sherwood, with his own hands and own axe, cut down the first tree on the locality of the Perth Settlement, forty miles eastward and north from Brockville. That tree grew on a small island, washed by a goodly stream, called by woodsmen, Pike River, but since named Tay, at the instance of General, Sir Gordon Drummond, who named the site of the town, Perth. He was commander of the British force at the battle of Lundy's Lane, near Niagara Falls, where now stands in the lovely woodlands, partly on the battle-ground, the village of Drummondville. I visited Perth, and places in the adjoining county of Lanark, in the autumn of 1860, and in January following. About the middle of that month, the thermometer marked 30 degrees below zero; the sky brilliant; the arch of heaven twice the height of an English sky; the snow crisp and glistening; sleigh bells musically tinkling on the harness of fast trotting horses; the sleighs gliding lightly along the highways leading into Perth; a ruddy happiness beaming on the travellers' faces; I, myself, buoyant in spirit, though with cause enough to be sad; the men muffled in their buffalo robes, or in plaids and woollens of their own cottage manufacture; the females warm in their furs, all glowing with health and prosperity. They had come from townships near and far, as they did every day when sleighing was good; some to sell wheat, or other produce of the farm; but the major portion to enjoy the drive, the women to do a little shopping, and display their spanking spurs of horses, in which, and the gaily painted sleighs, they take more delight, than even in showy clothes. These were a people who owned the free-hold of their land, generally a hundred acres in each family. Three or four hundred pounds in bank, or out at mortgage, or allotted in marriage portions for daughters, or in buying new farms for sons, with a loom or stocking-frames in most of the houses, spinning wheels and family bibles in all; with tidy homesteads, good stocks of horned cattle, some sheep, many pigs—an average of about twenty cattle, including milk cows working horses and young colts, on each farm;—these were the elements, on which I concluded, after due enquiry, that the people were prosperous. They had gone into the wilderness poor; had given battle with their axes to a hard fortune, and were now conquerors.

Who were they? The elderly fathers and

mothers had been Glasgow and Paisley weavers before 1829. The bearded young men and comely women were sons and daughters or grand children, born in Canada. But they were not all offspring of the Scottish looms; they who were, drove into Perth from several townships commencing twelve miles away. Perth itself, was at first a military settlement, and in its vicinity some of the men, if old, had recollections to tell of the British army; and some of the young whom I met were pleased to possess the military medals of their fathers, who had made long winter nights in the woods light-some by often told tales of Buscco, Vimeiro, Talavera, and onward to the crowning victory, Waterloo. I spent some hours with Mr. Macfarlane, who had driven in from the 'Scotch Road.' He was over eighty years of age; his eyes glancing like the eagle; his nose slightly like the eagle's beak; and his whole self sound in wind and limb, like a Highland staghound. He served in the Argyleshire Fencibles before this century began; was fruitful of anecdotes about the youth, and proud of the manhood and ripe celebrity of his relative General Sir Colin Campbell, now Lord Clyde. 'You amaze me about your age,' said I, 'you do not look over sixty.' 'Sixty! when they see me with my Sunday close on, in summer time, they tell me I look but fifty.'

The artists of the 'Canadian Illustrated News' have furnished views taken on the Rideau River, which may acquire additional interest when the reader, with me, penetrates to the homes of those British military, and Scottish weaver settlers, not as we can now go, seated on the cushions of the railway cars from Brockville to Perth, or to Almonte, and to reach next year the River Ottawa at Arnprior, thirty miles above Ottawa city; but tramping through forty, fifty, or sixty miles of swampy woods, crossing the Rideau and two other rivers on rafts, instead of by railway on the viaduct near Smith's Falls, a portion of which was shown in this journal last week.

In the year 1815, a Royal Proclamation offered a free passage and provisions on the passage, to natives of Great Britain, who might choose to settle in Canada. On arrival in the Province, they were to have a grant of one hundred acres for the heads of each family; and all their male children, residing in the Province, would be entitled, on attaining the age of twenty-one years, to a similar grant of a hundred acres. For the first twelve months after their arrival, they were to have rations from government stores, and if further aid should be required, food would be given for a limited period at less than prime cost. Implements were to be furnished at a price not exceeding half the prime cost. To prevent persons taking advantage of the liberality of the government to reach the United States by free passage, it was required that every person embarking for Quebec, should deposit money to be repaid to them or their representatives in Canada, at the end of two years from the date of embarkation, on its being ascertained that they were settled on the land allotted to them. For every male person above sixteen years of age, £16 sterling; every woman being the wife of any person when embarking, £2 2s. 0d.; children under sixteen being free.

Mr. Robert Gouslay, visited the Perth settlement in 1817, about two years after the first expedition left Britain, and reported, with other information now interesting and instructive, that, 'A month was spent by the emigrants of 1815, between the time of leaving home and time of embarkation; and a whole year elapsed from the latter period, till the time of getting possession of the promised land.' It was then that Mr. Sherwood, of Brockville, as I have just related, surveyed it, and hewed down the first tree.

ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE.

If any of our Agents have back Nos. 1 and 2 on hand, they will confer a favor by returning them to this office.

We have received a number of communications for our column of 'Notes and Queries,' but are unable this week to make room for them. We shall, however, give them in our next, when they will be continued regularly.

How can we expect to understand the mysteries of Providence, since we cannot understand the laws of Nature?

I should think it much more easy and rational, says Lord Bacon, to believe all the fables in the poets, the Legend, the Talmud, and the Aecorum, than that this universal frame should be without a Creator and Governor.

LET your actions correspond with your good report.