

“ I am glad that it occurred to you to inquire of Sir Francis Head what had been the conduct of the Irish settlers during the late unhappy tumults in Upper Canada, for I am sure it must have given him sincere pleasure to bear testimony in their favour, as he has done. Their conduct was excellent; and I have often regretted that it did not seem to attract, in this country, such particular notice as it certainly deserved. There was something remarkable, and most honourable, in the whole bearing of the Irish population throughout these troubles; and I have no doubt it continues to this hour; when the danger that threatens Upper Canada is of another and more formidable description. In the winter of 1838-9, the population generally behaved well; there were numerous examples of men of every origin—English, Scotch, and natives of the province, and some who had come from the United States of America—doing everything that could be done by them in defence of the country; but I think it was universally felt throughout the province that the conduct of the Irish, as a body, was pre-eminently good. They seemed not only to acknowledge promptly their obligation to support their government and the laws, but they discharged their duty with an eager forwardness, and a fine hearty warmth of feeling, that it was really quite affecting to witness. Hundreds of these poor fellows came at the first summons, from remote settlements, in the depth of winter, half clothed, without other arms than hoes, pitchforks, axes or clubs; and, in order to reach the seat of government, which they heard was attacked, they had to pass through the rich old settlements of the very persons who, under the influence of a feeling hardly to be credited or accounted for, had abandoned their homes and taken up arms against their Sovereign.

“ These people had lived in one of the very finest parts of Upper Canada, and had enjoyed, for thirty years, the protection of good laws and a good govern-