

tional information as to their views and interests in regard to the present Bill, have called before them and examined thereon a number of respectable residents in those Townships, whose Evidence is annexed to this Report.

Your Committee find that they generally agree in stating that the Bills heretofore passed by Your Honourable House of the nature of that now referred, had they been concurred in by the other Branches, would have been satisfactory to the great body of the Inhabitants of the Townships. In almost every instance the persons examined agree in wishing for nothing but an equal distribution of the Representation throughout the Province among the persons entitled by Law to vote at the Election of Members of the Assembly, and that as much facility as the present state of the Settlements and Roads will permit, should be offered to all of them, to attend at the Elections.

Your Committee, fully concurring in the same views, are aware that in new and growing countries such as is this Province, the Divisions made to give effect to these views must be in some degree imperfect and require periodical alterations, founded on the then existing state of things, which it has been found impossible to meet by any prospective measures. These, in such a country, might give rise to the flagrant injustice of an unequal Representation of persons equally qualified and equally interested throughout an almost entire population of Freeholders; an injustice which could secure no permanent benefit, but give rise to increasing discord, till such time as it would be destroyed by the indignant efforts of a free population.

Your Committee conceive, from the information that they have obtained, that ample justice would be done to the Townships by giving them, on the scale adopted in the present Bill for the whole of the Province, a Representation of seven Members including the Townships on the Ottawa. The Townships west of Lake Champlain to Saint Regis, being included in the proposed County of Beauharnois, to which two Members are allotted.

This change, if your Committee are rightly informed by the persons they have examined, with a suitable alteration in the place of the Poll, will leave no description of persons in the Townships with any grounds, or even any disposition, to complain that their interests have not been fully attended to in the present Bill.

Your Committee seeing the number of matters now before the Provincial Parliament, in which the Inhabitants of the Townships are peculiarly interested, and which can hardly be safely disposed of without their having Representatives in Your Honourable House, to give the necessary information under their constitutional responsibility to their  
Electors,