

TO THE PUBLIC.

IT having been stated to me by some of my friends that the public mind was impressed with the idea of my having participated in, and sanctioned the recent improper and unwarrantable publications of Mr. Robert Gourlay ; I conceive it a duty which I owe to the Government, to the province, and to myself to declare, that beyond publishing a statistical report of this province, he had neither my approbation nor my countenance.

In making this declaration, I trust that the tenor of my life justifies my asserting that factious discontent never originated in my breast. Having said this much in vindication of my own sentiments, I shall, in order to prevent error in, and rescue from distress the heedless proselytes of Mr. Gourlay's one thing needful—viz. a radical change of system in the government of Upper Canada, transcribe for their information an extract from the common law of the British Empire, which bears on the point of unlawful meetings or conventions, viz. "The constitution of Great Britain having placed the representation of the nation, and the expression of the national will, in the parliament, no other meeting or convention, even of every individual in the Kingdom, would be a competent organ to express that will ; and meetings of such a nature, tending merely to sedition, and to delude the people into an imaginary assertion of rights, which they had before delegated to their representatives in parliament, could only tend to introduce anarchy and confusion, and to overturn every settled principle of government." An act of parliament was passed in Ireland, in the year 1793, to prevent any such meetings or conventions ; and a few ignorant individuals, who in the same year had dared to assemble under that title in Scotland, were quickly dispersed, and their leaders convicted of seditious practices ; for which they were sentenced to transportation.

I shall conclude with recommending to all, to weigh well how they attend to visionary enthusiasts.

THOMAS CLARK.

Niagara, April 18, 1818.