

REPRESENTATION, &c.

At a Meeting of Proprietors of Real Property, in this Seignory, held in this City on the 17th instant, to take into consideration the title of the Seminary to the Seignory of this Island and the objections to the Ordinance now before the Special Council, for the extinction of Seigniorial Tenure in Montreal, JOHN TORRANCE, Esq., was appointed Chairman and W. BADGLEY, Esq. Secretary of the Meeting. The Secretary submitted the following Representation which was adopted, ordered to be printed and generally circulated:—

The object of this publication is to explain familiarly, the evils of the Feudal Tenure, as they more immediately affect this City and Island, and to expose the grounds of objection to the Ordinance, now before the Special Council for approval, to “*Incorporate the Ecclesiastics of the Seminary of St. Sulpice of Montreal, to confirm their Title to the Fief and Seignory of the Island of Montreal, the Fief and Seignory of the Lake of the Two Mountains, and the Fief and Seignory of St. Sulpice, in this Province;—To provide for the gradual extinction of Seigniorial Rights and Dues within the Seigniorial limits of the said Fiefs and Seignories, and for other purposes.*”

It will not be considered necessary to dilate at any length upon the evils and inconveniences which attach to the existence of the Feudal Tenure in general, they are so unquestionable as to be admitted by all parties, and are so obvious a check to improvement and the free circulation of property, as to require but little comment; it may not, however, be improper to notice some of the more prominent features of this civil slavery, which has caused so much irritation; it is therefore proposed briefly to advert to the nature and consequences of *lods et ventes, feudal retrait, banalité, &c. &c.*

And first, *lods et ventes*.—This is a right of the Seignior to the payment, from every purchaser of real estate, of a proportional fine upon every mutation thereof, to the amount of one-twelfth of its value at the time of the alienation, and upon every lease of real estate for a longer period than nine years, to the amount of the capital represented by the