

shouting as the best way of attracting attention to his perilous situation; and if he were so foolish as to neglect such means, he might remain a long time in the pit before chance vouchsafed him a deliverer. So with surveyors, if they submit without a murmur—without a remonstrance, the public, if they at all think in the matter, very naturally conclude that there is nothing to complain of—nothing to redress.

We hope we are doing no violence to refined tastes when we remind our friends of the homely old proverb, "Union is strength;" and that it is as efficacious now as it was in the fabulous days of the bundle of sticks; nor of its twin-sister, "God helps those who help themselves." This is pre-eminently an age of progress; and it is clear as the noon-day sun, if surveyors do not keep pace with the times—if they do not avail themselves of the improvements taking place around them—if they do not imitate the successful policy of their neighbors—if they do not conform to the altered condition of things, they cannot wonder if they find themselves far behind in the march. Whilst every other class of our mixed society is partaking of a change for the better, marching steadily onward in the path of social amelioration, our class alone appear to retrograde, or, at best, to maintain an ignoble *statu quo*. For none will deny that the social position of the surveyor 20 years ago was far ahead of what it is to-day.

In continuing our comparison between surveyors and lawyers, we would ask the latter how would they like if the Finance Minister of this Province, by virtue of his office, was head of their corporation in Upper and Lower Canada; and further, if his power was absolute in all matters relative to the administration of their professional affairs, so that he could appoint merchants or farmers or mechanics to constitute the board whose office was to decide who were or were not competent to be admitted as lawyers, and all other matters belonging to their organization. We can fancy the reply such a query would justly elicit from the gentry of the long robe; and we doubt not that the Finance Minister who would presume on such functions once, would never repeat the folly. Again, how would the medical fraternity of Upper and Lower Canada like to have the Commissioner of Public Works, for example, by virtue of his office, the head of their affairs, the arbiter of their destiny?

Now, what we have been supposing in the cases of the lawyers and Doctors, is what actually takes place in the case of Surveyors. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, for the time being, is, *ex officio*, the head of the surveying profession in both sections of

the Province. He is the President of the only administrative or corporate functions with which Surveyors are endowed; and at his whim or pleasure can subvert the whole institution, for the Boards of Examiners, who examine and decide the eligibility of candidates to practice as Surveyors, hold their places during his pleasure, and can appoint thereto whomsoever he pleases. Nor is what we suppose a mere case of possibility, but an actual fact, for of the nine members, who at present constitute the Upper Canada Board of Examiners, five—a bare majority—are Upper Canada Surveyors. This would be less aggravating if a dearth of talent amongst Upper Canada Surveyors caused this exclusion. But we emphatically deny such a conclusion, though we must admit the inference is natural. In this particular Lower is far ahead of Upper Canada, for all the members, except the Commissioner, are Lower Canada Surveyors. Yet the Commissioner of Crown Lands, who wields such absolute power over the destiny of the Surveying profession, is no more fitted by education or training to be head of the Surveyors, than is the Finance Minister or the Commissioner of Public Works fit to be the Comptroller of the Legal or Medical professions. Nay, we believe, that in general, Finance Ministers know more of legal lore, if not of legal forms, than the Commissioner of Crown Lands knows of Surveying. We feel we are safe in saying that no Commissioner of Crown Lands, since the Union of these Provinces, knew the distinction between *altitude and azimuth*, between *theodolite and circumferentor*. We must not be understood as making any charges against Commissioners of Crown Lands, past or present, for it is an honor or obligation which, however unfairly, the law imposes on them; and we will here repeat, once for all, that whatever we may say in the discussion of this and kindred subjects, we wish it to be distinctly understood that our concern is not with individuals, however unavoidable from their connection with our subject it may be to mention individual names, that we are combating a system, of which the individuals are merely the agents.

That Surveyors could prosper under such baneful influences is simply impossible. Indeed, the wonder is that they have even maintained their present status under such adverse circumstances. At this stage two questions naturally suggest themselves:

1°. Should Surveyors occupy an equal position with the other learned professions?

2°. Are their services of such necessity and importance to the public well as to secure them a respectable competence?