

"The appointment of Mr. Ogilby, as high constable for the district of Montreal, has been published, as made by the court of general quarter sessions of the peace; now, supposing this to be the case, without the slightest disrespect to the authority of the court, we would wish to know by what ordinance the court is empowered to make such appointment? And how the person, at present holding this situation, can, by this act, be deprived of it?"

I shall wait to see what answer, or whether any, (for our would-be great men of the police and quarter sessions, seldom deign to pay any deference to public opinion, or to answer either public or private enquiries or publications,) will be made to the above, before I make any further observations on this probable assumption of an usurped power.

L. L. M.

ABSTRACT and REVIEW of PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS
of LOWER CANADA, continued from No 42.

Reverting to the proceedings of the house of assembly of the 14th January, I have been favoured with a short abstract of the animated debate which took place on the motion for reducing the quorum, the arguments used on which occasion it may be well to keep in mind in anticipation of the decision of the question which took place shortly after.

Mr. Taschereau, the proposer of the reduction to 15, said that the object was to avoid the numerous inconveniences which had been experienced by the quorum being fixed at 26, which was so difficult to form, and caused the loss of much precious time. He was not particularly attached to the number 15, but was willing to vote for any intermediate number, as far as 19. In England, where the representatives are upwards of 600, the quorum was 40, a number much more disproportioned to 600 than 15 was to 50;* and if a higher number would produce inconveniences in the English house of commons, 26 produces still greater inconveniences among us.

Mr. Lagueux, in offering an amendment of 19, instead of 15, observed that, during the last session, they had been, for three days together, unable to form a house from the want of a quorum. The number he proposed, he conceived, would avoid the delays occasioned by a larger one, and at the same time, guard against the abuses which might be apprehended from so small a number as 15.

Mr. Blanchet, upon whose proposition the quorum had last

*If arithmetical proportion could be allowed as an argument in this case, three and one half ought to be a quorum in our house of assembly!