

testing in the newspapers of the day against the government of that period.

A graphic description of the scene is given in the opening chapter of Dent's history of the Rebellion in which are portrayed the Court Room, the lawyers, the Judge, the prisoner, commencing thus and much in the style of Macaulay's trial of Warren Hastings. "In the afternoon of a warm and sultry day towards the close of one of the warmest and most sultry summers which Upper Canada has ever known an extraordinary trial took place at the court house in the old town of Niagara x x. The date was Friday, the 20th of August, 1819. The court room, the largest in the province was packed to the doors, and though every window was thrown open the atmosphere was almost stifling."

Gourlay was so treated that his reason gave way. The chapter is named the Banished Briton. The editor of the Niagara Spectator, Bartemus Ferguson, fared badly also, a letter of Gourlay's had appeared in his paper in his absence and without his knowledge, and for this the unfortunate editor was confined in the Niagara Jail, tried for sedition and sentenced to pay a fine of £50, to be imprisoned in jail for eighteen months, to stand in the public pillory one hour, to give security for seven years for the sum of £1000 and to remain in prison till the fine be paid and security given. We may surely congratulate ourselves that we do not live in these "good old days"

The newspapers of the day show how severe were the punishments, as in 1825 John Hight for Highway robbery was condemned to death. In 1826 three men were sentenced to be hanged for horse stealing and sheep stealing, on 25th October. This sentence was not carried out as the paper for Oct. 28th has an item headed "Great Disappointment. Great numbers came from U. S. into town to see the execution but His Excellency had suspended the sentence. A waggon load of cakes and gingerbread had to be sold at reduced rates." What a mingling of sad and gruesome elements does this extract give us. In 1831 is mentioned the Debtor's prayer written on the walls of the prison. In 1832 a letter in the Gleaner from a debtor in jail speaks of the kindness of Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Capt. Mosier in sending food and delicacies to debtors confined there, and in a Canadian home now after a lapse of seventy years may be seen a symbolic picture executed by one of these unhappy prisoners confined for debt, representing a bird in a cage fed by a little girl who is