

(To accompany Representation Bill.)

NEW REPRESENTATION

In Parliament of Lower Canada, based upon an approximating Statement that the Population in the year 1848 amounts to 766,304 Souls.

In 1825, the population of Lower Canada amounted to 423,680, in 1831 to 511,919, and in 1844 to the number of 690,782 souls. By this it will be seen that the population increased 83,239 souls between the years 1825 and 1831, and according to this ratio the population would double itself in about 28 or 29 years; but taking the subsequent period of 13 years *i.e.*, between 1831 and 1844, we find that the population had increased only 178,864 souls, which rate of progress would require from 37 to 38 years for the population to double itself. This falling off in the proportionate increase of the population may be accounted for by the Cholera of 1832 and 1834, the outbreaks of 1837 and 1838, and the Emigration which followed them, and also the great diminution in the number of Immigrants for a year or two subsequently to these last events from the number which had theretofore and do now usually settle themselves in the Country. If the increase of population had continued up to 1844 in the same ratio as it had progressed between the years 1825 and 1831, the number of souls would have amounted to 742,920 souls, whereas the census taken at that period (1844) shews a total of only 690,782, *i.e.* 52,140 less, and if the same ratio of increase had continued up to the year 1848, the population would now be 813,999. On the other hand, if the ratio of increase had continued up to this time in the same proportion as it progressed between the years 1831 and 1844, the total population will now be but 745,814.

Again, supposing the condition of the Country to be almost the same just now as it was before the Cholera and the outbreaks before alluded to, and calculating the increase of population during the last 4 years (*i.e.*, since the last census) upon the same rate of progress as is shewn to have existed between 1825 and 1831, the augmentation will amount to 95,911, making a total population in 1848 of 786,693 souls; but as it is very probable that the census of 1825 was rather below the real number of Inhabitants and was not so correctly taken as either of those which have been since made, perhaps the best means for arriving nearest to the truth as to the increase for the past four years, would be to take the average rate for the whole period from 1825 to 1844, which would give an augmentation of 75,522 souls, and according to this calculation the actual total number of the population of Lower Canada in 1848 will be found to be 766,304.

The *amount* of increase being once established, it will be easy to calculate the proportion to be assigned to each particular County. This increase of 75,522 is in the same ratio to the total population (according to the census of 1844) as 1 is to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ and a fraction; since however the rate of increase cannot be the same in each County, it will be necessary to establish an approximate estimate of the proportion to which each locality is entitled, and this can only be done by taking into consideration the relative positions of the several Counties.

After the best information that can be procured on this part of the subject, the following classification of the increase made during the past 4 years appears to offer fewest objections, and is in all probability the most correct that can possibly be obtained in the absence of any Official Returns:

1st. Those newly settled localities where the Land is good and obtained by Settlers on easy terms which offers the greatest inducements to Emigrants from abroad as well as to those coming from old and thickly settled places in other parts of the Country. Here the increase is greatest.

2nd. Those Counties which are not entirely agricultural and yet offer some inducements to Settlers; or, comprising within their limits certain places where Trade or Manufactures are carried on, and thus draw a large population around them. In this class the increase is also considerable although not so great as in the preceding one.

3rd. This Class comprehends those Counties, which possess some of the advantages alluded to in the second class, but in a less degree, having a very limited quantity of wood land to dispose of.

4th. This last class comprises those Counties which indicate but slight means of