

267

It is true that the letter I now refer to being private is not on record in the despatch book, but it is equally true that Lord Sydenham received it, and, as he intimated to me himself, considered it and acted upon it as an authority. This letter in Lord John Russell's handwriting was shown to me by Lord Sydenham's chief secretary, Mr. Murdoch, as it was also to the present provincial secretary, was perused by me, and I have such a recollection of its contents that I can distinctly say they were to the purport I have described. I am satisfied that Mr. Murdoch can also bear testimony to its existence and purport, and to the view that Lord Sydenham took of it, and will remember that the letter was called forth by the particular and perhaps too zealous interference of some of my friends in England to secure Lord John Russell's protection to my interests. I may add that this letter was openly referred to by me in my written communications with Lord Sydenham as strengthening my right to an adequate pension or compensation if I retired from office.

I trust that in the circumstances I have detailed Lord Stanley will find, if not strict evidence, grounds of moral certainty that Lord Sydenham had a knowledge of every circumstance connected with my tenure of office, that I at least withheld nothing from him in the way of concealment, that he made the arrangement for my retirement on a pension advisedly, and after being satisfied that I had a right to it, and that it is now binding on Government.

That that arrangement was not reported by him to Her Majesty's Government should not, I respectfully submit, be now turned to my disadvantage, as it was probably owing to Lord Sydenham's accident and premature death in less than a month afterwards; but if I am not mistaken, he had previously received Lord John Russell's approval of the changes he proposed to make in the Executive Council department.

I must, in conclusion, briefly advert to that part of Lord Stanley's observations which relates to the amount of pension promised to me. But I not only claim the pension but remuneration for the loss of my former income of 1,030*l.* per annum, and for the advances I have made, and the ruinous pecuniary losses I have suffered in consequence of the non-fulfilment of the engagement entered into with me by Lord Sydenham on my retiring from office, and accepting another which he held out as an equivalent, but which by subsequent acts of Government has been the means of bringing me to the verge of ruin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. RYLAND.

Sub-Enclosure 1. in Enclosure to No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 1. in
Encl. to No. 7.

Sir,

Executive Council Office, Kingston, 11th June 1841.

With reference to our conversation the other day relative to the fees of the clerk of the Executive Council, I have to inform you that in consequence of your suggestion that the demanding of fees from the Upper Canadians, who have not been accustomed to pay them, might occasion complaints which at this moment would be embarrassing to Government, I immediately gave directions that no fees should from that period be exacted, either on money warrants, or for business done at the instance of individuals having claims on Government. In ceasing, however, to demand these rights of office, I wish it to be clearly understood that it is merely for the purpose of facilitating public business, and is not to be construed into an abandonment on my part of a right to exact these emoluments, or to receive indemnification from Government for the loss thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. RYLAND.

The Hon. S. B. Harrison,
&c. &c. &c.

Memorandum by his Excellency the Governor General.

Read. This can only be considered as a caveat; I do not believe that the clerk has any right to the fees at all.

Sub-Enclosure 2. in Enclosure to No. 7.

Sub-Encl. 2. in
Encl. to No. 7.

Sir,

Executive Council Office, 7th July 1841.

Having this day been furnished with a copy of my letter to you of the 11th ultimo, together with his Excellency's memorandum thereon, I feel compelled in self-justification to reiterate my claim to compensation for the loss of that part of my official income which at your request, and in order to prevent any embarrassment to the Provincial Government, I consented to cease to exact; and I feel convinced that when his Excellency shall have considered the grounds upon which I found my right, he will arrive at a very different conclusion from that expressed in his Excellency's memorandum at the foot of my letter, implying that I had brought forward an unfounded claim.

Enclosed is my commissions, together with a copy of Mr. Secretary Murdoch's letter of the 13th February, and the authorities under which I claim my fees of office. I also annex a copy of a report of Council made to the Earl of Dalhousie respecting warrant fees, to which I respectfully call his Excellency's attention, and as the ordinance there alluded to makes