

of the Commissioners, and the Speaker shall appoint an officer for that purpose, to be called the Accountant of the House of Commons, and the Commissioners shall pay such sums as they shall deem necessary to the credit of the said Accountant by an order signed by the Speaker and two of the said Commissioners.

It appears to me, if your circular is to apply to the House of Commons, the functions and duties of the Commissioners will be greatly infringed upon, and as it would be highly improper for me to do any act which would conduce to that end, I would therefore submit that any action in this matter should be suspended till the re-assembling of the Commissioners at the seat of Government, when the subject may be brought before them, and I may receive their instructions.

I would also refer you to the 6th clause of the same Act, which provides for the disposal of the sums voted by Parliament for the printing of Parliament, and how they are to be accounted for. I would submit that in this case, also, action should be suspended till the meeting of Parliament, when the Joint Committee on Printing can issue such instructions as they may deem necessary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) HENRY HARTNEY,

Accountant House of Commons and Clerk of the Joint
Committee of the Houses on Printing.

J. L. McDOUGALL, Esq.,
Auditor-General.

(Copy.)

AUDIT OFFICE,
August 30th, 1879.

SIR,—I have your favour of yesterday.

I believe that you misunderstood the object I had in view when the circular was sent. There is no expectation, on my part, of the authority of the Commissioners being dispensed with.

The warrant to pay over the money to the Commissioners from the Receiver-General's balance, and the authority to expend the sums in detail, must continue as at present. This is, however, in my opinion, no reason for objecting to the subsequent audit, which would not do away with the examination by any Committee of the House of Commons.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. L. McDOUGALL,

Auditor-General.

HENRY HARTNEY, Esq.,
Accountant of House of Commons,
&c., &c., &c.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 2nd September, 1878.

MY DEAR MR. HARTNEY,—Having perused the circular of the Auditor-General—referred to in your note to me—the Audit Act of last session, and more especially sections 30, 33, 37, 40 and 41, your answer and the subsequent note of the Auditor General in reply. I am of opinion that the accounting clauses of the Audit Act were not intended to apply, and do not apply, to moneys voted for the purposes of the House of Commons or for the printing of Parliament, under the provisions of the Internal Economy Act, 31 Vic., c. 27, but that such moneys must continue to be