

Whatever may have conduced to my present state of humiliation, of which I have drained the cup to the very dregs, I trust that your Excellency will perceive, in the above relation, that my present crisis arises from a confidence in your Excellency's Private Secretary, on an occasion which I was justified to suppose required that confidence as a duty of respect to your Excellency, as the Representative of his Majesty.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your Excellency's Servant,

WILLIAM DUMMER POWELL.

The following is Major Hillier's explanation, received through His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland :—

YORK, July 28th, 1823.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Your Excellency having desired me to afford an explanation of certain circumstances detailed in a letter lately addressed to you by the Chief Justice, I take the liberty to submit the following statement :—

9th May, 1823.—In a note dated the 9th May, your Excellency desired that I would confer with the Chief Justice and with Dr. Strachan, on the subject of the appointment of Commissioners for the investigation of the Claims, &c., which a late Despatch from my Lord Bathurst rendered immediately necessary.

10th May.—I carried that Despatch to Mr. Powell for perusal, and showed him the names of five gentlemen who had occurred to your Excellency as eligible for the office of Commissioner:—these were Colonels Wells and Foster, the Attorney-General, Messrs. Robinson and Allan. In the eligibility of all these, Mr. Powell fully concurred; but expressed his opinion that the Attorney-General would probably much rather decline the appointment; in which opinion I entirely agreed. I went from the Chief Justice to Dr. Strachan, whom I found to agree entirely with Mr. Powell's sentiments, and especially so with regard to the Attorney-General. We had much conversation on the subject, and at length it appeared suddenly to occur to Dr. Strachan, that Mr. Alexander Wood would be a very fit person for the Commission; but at the same time he expressed a doubt whether Mr. W.'s stay in the Province would be of sufficient duration to admit of his taking on him