

Mr. Collector Simpson, in handing to the Commissioner (Mr. Duncomb) those statements, on the 14th September, 1875, thought proper to endorse the undersigned thus :

" In my opinion, the proper person to act *pro* Collector is his confidential clerk or Secretary, for he beyond all others is best acquainted with the business of the Collector's office, and the mode in which the Collector desires it to be performed."

And, again, under the head " The Collector's Secretary," he wrote :

" I cannot but admire Mr. O'Hara's modest statement of his duties, and particularly so when I consider the varied character of his work and the method with which he performs it ; in fact, he has so identified himself with the Collector's office and made himself so intimately acquainted with its ramifications, that I consider he alone should represent the Collector during his temporary or unavoidable absence. Mr. O'Hara only ranks as clerk on the books of the office, but has been promised by the Minister of Customs to be promoted to the rank of SECRETARY, with, I trust, an increase of salary."

Reference to Mr. Commissioner Duncomb's report will show his opinion. The report is a sealed book in the office of the Commissioner of Customs.

On the 5th June, 1878, the undersigned was officially desired to assist in the duties of Acting-Collector, by Mr. Collector Simpson ; and, in September last, in the absence of the Surveyor of the Port, was placed in charge of the Port by Mr. Collector Simpson, during his temporary and unavoidable absence. [See letter of instruction hereto attached.

The foregoing will, the undersigned hopes, indicate, to some extent, to the Hon. Minister of Customs and the Government, the nature of his position of service here—namely, that he has been for nearly ten years past, to all intents and purposes, Assistant or Sub-Collector of the Port of Montreal, and was called upon to furnish a large portion of the thought, labor, judgment and business knowledge—as well as the greater part of the desk drudgery—necessary to the administration of the Collectorship of the chief port of this Dominion—a larger share, indeed, than he could, perhaps, expect credit for, however ordinarily just or generous his immediate superior might be in his representations to the Department on such a subject. Be that as it may, the fact ought to be well established now, that the administration of the office of Collector at this port calls for more actual work than one man, unassisted, can cope with, no matter how able or assiduous he may be—whereas, the interests of the service require some time for the exercise of general supervision—a necessity which has been somewhat neglected at Montreal, simply for want of a *duly authorized Collector's Assistant*. Heretofore, the undersigned has suffered from the above facts not