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Your Committee have had before them several returns from the different departments of your Honorable House, which will be adverted to in a future Report. All which is humbly submitted.

THOMAS FORTIER,  
Chairman.

Quebec, 3rd May, 1855.

*Letter of Clerk Assistant.*

QUEBEC, 30th April, 1855.

SIR—With reference to a letter which Mr. Lindsay, the Clerk of this House, had the honor of addressing you, on the subject of an additional assistant, and which has since been referred to a Select Committee, I beg respectfully to state that viewing my advanced age (being now 65 years) as well as my increasing infirmities, I feel that I am now no longer able to discharge, efficiently, the duties of my office as Assistant Clerk, particularly during the evening sittings of the House.

I have now been 43 years in the service of the House, during which period I have endeavoured to discharge the duties of my situation with all the zeal and ability of which I was capable.

Apart from the duties appertaining to my situation, I can state with perfect truth, that during the last 25 years I have been constantly employed in forming a collection of rare and valuable works as well as manuscripts relating to the history of America. At the time of the destruction of the Legislative Buildings at Montreal, in April, 1849, these amounted to above 1600 volumes, the whole of which were unfortunately entirely destroyed.

After renewed and continual exertions, this collection was again reconstructed and had reached the number of nearly 2000 volumes, when it was partially destroyed by the second calamitous fire which happened on the 1st February, 1854. On that occasion about 700 volumes perished in the flames; amongst them were a large number of publications of the 16th and 17th centuries, many of which it is feared cannot be replaced.

The remaining portion of this collection consists, at this present time, of about 1200 volumes, together with 24 folio volumes of manuscripts and nearly 200 maps, charts and plans, all relating to the early history of Canada. Even in its present state this collection is *unique* in its kind and may in time be brought to attain its former splendid condition, provided it be placed under the undivided care and attention of a competent person.

After having thus stated the nature and extent of my services, I would respectfully beg the favor of your recommendation to the Committee, in order that I may be allowed to resign my present situation as Clerk Assistant, and out of my salary of £550 to grant me a pension of £400, during the remainder of my life, or should this collection be left in Quebec under my charge, that I may then be allowed to enjoy the full amount of my salary.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

G. B. FARIBAULT.

To the Honorable the  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

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