

Correspondence
respecting
Mr. Thompson.

Lower Canada since I came to America, except twice or three times, when I went by water to the province of New Brunswick, and this was about fourteen years ago. I then lived at Hope Town, in the said county of Bonaventure. I went on some little business which I had in the province of New Brunswick. I have been sixteen years a resident in Lower Canada. It is my firm conviction that I was imprisoned in the said common gaol at New Carlisle, under the pretext aforesaid, merely for the purpose of preventing me from speedily recovering the money which the said judge owed and still owes me. Before, during, and after my imprisonment in the said gaol at New Carlisle, as hereinbefore more amply mentioned, I was altogether destitute of resources: my old acquaintances furnished me with the means of subsistence. The money I received from the said judge served to carry me home. When I was imprisoned as before stated, I sincerely believe that if I had not been advised and encouraged, I should have given way to my grief so far, as rather to have died than remained in gaol. I was also unwell before I was arrested. I had not the means of paying an advocate to defend me; but I was defended, and have not yet paid a single farthing for want of the means. I am persuaded that one of the motives which induced the bail to come forward at the time of the return of the *capias ad respondendum* to procure my liberty, was the assurance they received from my advocate that they ran no risk in becoming bail for me; and I think that had it not been for this, I could not have found bail. The result of the vexations I have endured in consequence of the non-payment of the judge's draft is, that my wife is now in service, my two children boarded among my neighbours, and I myself am at Quebec without the means of subsistence. I can conscientiously say that what I have stated above has not been from motives of hatred to the judge, but solely because I wish the truth to be known. I ought to avow that I hope to obtain justice. Before I was arrested at the pretended suit of Peter Duval & Company, I had said to the said judge, that if I insisted so strongly upon being paid what was due to me, it was because I was anxious to return to the district of Montreal to join my family, who were then in great want; and that if I did not receive the said sum I should be ruined, as I now am. I know that the district of Montreal is in Lower Canada. I went from Sherrington to Paspebiac in the summer of 1834, at which time I received the judge's draft. I returned to Paspebiac last summer to obtain payment of the protested draft of the said judge; and I made another journey from Sherrington to Quebec in 1834, to get the said draft protested; making in all 1,220 leagues which I have travelled about this unfortunate business, without reckoning my present journey, which will be 140 leagues by the time I get home, making altogether 1,360 leagues. I reckon 200 leagues from Quebec to Paspebiac; several masters of schooners in the said inferior district of Gaspé having told me that was the distance.

Monday, 11 January 1836.—JEAN CHARLES LETOURNEAU, Esq., in the Chair.

M. Germain Durand, of Ristigouche, in the county of Bonaventure, Merchant, called in; and being Interrogated, answered:

I HAVE resided at Ristigouche aforesaid, for five years past, and have been perfectly well acquainted with the Honourable John Gawler Thompson, as judge of the provincial court of the inferior district of Gaspé, for several years. I left Ristigouche aforesaid on the 28th of December last, and arrived at Quebec on the 7th instant, coming by the Metis road. The distance from Paspebiac to Ristigouche is about 26 leagues. On or about the 10th of December last, I received by post, at my house, one of the numbers of the newspaper, called "Le Canadien," being number 84, and published at Quebec, on the 23d of November last, in which paper is published, at full length, the petition of Joseph F. Deblois, esq., advocate, accusing the Honourable John Gawler Thompson of high crimes and misdemeanors, as more particularly set forth in the said petition, published in the said number of "Le Canadien" aforesaid. Two days afterwards I was at Carleton, and on the following day the people spoke openly of the said accusation. I was at the house of Frederick Bijeau, of Carleton, where about 20 of the inhabitants of the place were present; they said that the said petitioner had done well to accuse the said judge, who was unworthy to sit on the bench. From what I learnt at different places, it appeared that the said accusations were known at Carleton before I arrived there. I met Mr. Armstrong and his lady proceeding to the county of Bonaventure by the Metis road; they were then about nine leagues from Ristigouche. I reside at Ristigouche, at a distance from the courts of law, and I have no personal knowledge of what passes in the said courts, having never attended any sitting of the provincial court, and having little occasion to communicate with the inhabitants of the inferior district of Gaspé, my trade being confined to the several localities in the neighbourhood of the mission of Ristigouche, which is at the mouth of the Ristigouche River; I may say above the said river.

Saturday, 16 January 1836.—ELZEAR BEDARD, Esq., in the Chair.

Edouard Thibaudeau, Esq., a Member of the House, called in; and being Interrogated, answered:

I ARRIVED in the district of Gaspé in the spring of the year 1828, for the purpose of practising there as an advocate and attorney. I have resided there ever since that time, with the exception of the intervals when my duties, as representative of the county of Bonaventure, have called me to Quebec. I have known the Honourable John Gawler Thompson during the whole of that time, as judge of the provincial court of the inferior district of Gaspé.