

reject any tenders for want of confidence in the securities, but because I wanted confidence in the principals, and I did not choose to jeopardize the regular and safe transmission of so important a Mail as that between *Quebec* and *Montreal*, by entrusting it to a person who appeared unfit for the duty, merely because his tender was somewhat lower than that of another person, in whose long tried faithfulness I had every confidence. My own experience in such matters had taught me at what price the work could be properly done for, and I know that the present price affords only a fair remuneration to the contractors for their labor and responsibility. I will further add, that in this instance (as in all important contracts, when I undertake to reject a lower offer and accept a greater,) I reported my proceedings to the head of my Department in *England*.

75. What is the present rate of the contract for carrying the Mail between *Quebec* and *Montreal*; who are the contractors, what is the date of the contract, and when will it expire?—The present cost for carrying the Mail between *Quebec* and *Montreal* is £1,300 currency per annum; the contract is dated March 1829, it expires in April 1833.

Adjourned.

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*Saturday, 19th March 1831.*

PRESENT :—Messrs. *Neilson, Heney, Cuxillier, Quessel* and *Leslie*.

*Mr. Leslie* in the Chair.

*Robert Armour, junior*, Esquire, called in and examined :—

Can you state what sum of money is paid by the