

to none but that of the Governor and the Chief Justice, and places him in relations of a delicate and invidious nature with almost every Landholder and Merchant in New Brunswick, yet hitherto it has been conducted by rules framed and varied at the pleasure of the Executive Government alone. The responsibility of the Commissioner of Crown Lands has been acknowledged as due only to the King and to His Majesty's Officers, and the local Legislature has possessed only an occasional and imperfect acquaintance with the proceedings of his office. That they should have regarded with suspicion, and that the officer himself should have been the victim of censures which were really due not to him but to the system he had been appointed to administer these are results so natural and so much to have been anticipated, that the concern with which I regard them is unmixed with any surprise.

"I am not entitled to comment on the language in which, in discharge of their public duty, a select Committee of the Assembly of New Brunswick have remarked upon the conduct of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. Yet, without any infringement of the respect due from me to that House, I may perhaps venture to express my conviction, that had they been in possession of the explanations which Mr. Baillie has addressed to me, they would have softened or perhaps have entirely discarded the language in which their censure has been expressed. Whenever a Committee shall be reappointed for the same object, Mr. Baillie will, I am convinced, perceive the necessity and propriety of yielding to all their requisitions for accounts and other information, not merely a constrained obedience, but a frank and cheerful compliance. If any dissatisfaction has been produced by a supposed wish on his part to frustrate or embarrass their inquiries, it will be most effectually removed by the proofs which I am persuaded he will afford of alacrity to meet and even to anticipate their wishes. Having in truth no reason to dread, but every motive to court, inquiry into his public conduct, Mr. Baillie will best consult for his own welfare by repressing the sense of injury under which he appears to labour, and by zealously co-operating with any Committee which may be appointed to pursue this investigation.

"On the other hand, whatever jealousy the Committee of the last Session may have entertained of the Crown Land Department will infallibly be diminished, and as I trust, altogether removed by the complete explanations which will thus be given, and by the spirit in which they will be afforded.

"The revival of such distrusts hereafter will be obviated by the new and intimate relation in which the Land Department will be brought with the two Houses of local Legislature.

"I cannot quit this part of the subject without observing that the question raised respecting the production of Mr. Baillie's vouchers seems to me to have been founded on an evident misapprehension. He supposed that the House had it in contemplation permanently to deprive him of the custody of them—a construction which the mere words of the requisition may perhaps have justified, but which the subsequent report of the Committee satisfactorily repels. Their object was only to examine and not to detain the vouchers, and had Mr. Baillie attended with them before the Committee, he would have been permitted to remove them for safe custody to his own office whenever they were not in actual use. If he had understood the Address of the House in this sense, his objection would not have been reasonable, and I am therefore well convinced would not have been made. Of course therefore it will not be repeated.

"It only remains for me to declare my conviction, that the Assembly of New Brunswick cannot have entertained the design which Mr. Baillie attributes to them, of denying the full benefit of the audits through which his accounts have already passed, and of the acquittances which he has already received.

"To whatever extent the House of Commons may be bound by the decisions of the Lords of the Treasury, founded on the reports of the Auditors of public accounts, in reference to the Revenues of this country, to the same extent the Assembly of New Brunswick will doubtless acknowledge itself to be bound by similar decisions, founded on similar Reports, in reference to the receipt and expenditure of the Land Revenue of the Province as formerly administered. To that extent Mr. Baillie has the most decided claim on His Majesty's Government for protection and support, because if the former system of audit was imperfect or unsatisfactory, the responsibility rests not with him, but with them.

"You will communicate a copy of this Despatch to Mr. Baillie.

"I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

"GLENELG."

Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY,
&c. &c. &c.

"DOWNING STREET, 13th May, 1837.

"SIR,

"I CONSIDER it so important that the good feeling which I trust will be the result of the proposed financial arrangement with the House of Assembly of New Brunswick, should not be exposed to any chance of interruption, that I cannot help again addressing you on the subject of my Despatch of the 4th instant, No. 11. I wish to impress upon you, and I request you to impress upon the officers under you, how material it is that there should be no difficulty or delay in communicating to the House of Assembly all the information which they may desire respecting financial affairs. The repeated directions to this effect; which have issued from my predecessors in this office, seem to have been misunderstood, or not understood in their proper force. I am therefore induced to request that you will convey to the officers concerned, my desire that they will furnish the Assembly not only with