

MOUNT LILAC, BEAUPORT,
28th August, 1844.

MY DEAR MURDOCH,

I send you a printed copy of the official correspondence and papers connected with my claims. I am told that you are not likely to interfere in my behalf: but as you were the official channel through whom my negotiation with Lord Sydenham was afterwards carried into effect, I consider that you are bound to stand by me and to assist in *extricating* my family from their undeserved and humiliating position. I have therefore unhesitatingly referred to you on the subject.

You may remember that Daly lectured me for insisting on a written assurance, which, considering that my arrangement with Lord Sydenham was entirely of a verbal nature, I deemed necessary to protect me against the possibility of ultimate loss. You also thought the precaution a useless one, implying a doubt of his Lordship's sincerity, but as things have turned out where should I have been if I had not guarded myself at every point. Whatever may be said of Lord Sydenham, I am sure he had no desire to act unfairly by any one, and that neither he nor you wished to inveigle me into an arrangement by which I was to be cheated out of an office conferred on me in reward of my own and my father's public services. The testimony then which I want from you is simply to the effect, whether I am not right in maintaining that Lord Sydenham's intention was to secure me a full equivalent for the income of the office, I consented on public grounds to place in his hands. As to his authority it was sufficient to enable him to pension off Antrobus and others who never held commissions such as mine and whose offices were really defunct, but on this head no one knows more than you do, and being on the spot, one word from you will be of more avail than any thing I can write from this side.

But supposing that Lord Sydenham had not sufficient authority to negotiate with me, I am told by a high legal authority, that his Estate could be made answerable. Will