

that you should impose on him the obligation of giving you the grounds on which the assertion rested.

Returning to your assumption and exercise of the right to judge me without charity because of the following statement in my letter, "Whether the letter from which you quote was written by me or not \* \* \* I would be unable to affirm or deny from any information I possess at the present time." I am compelled to say a few words. You certainly have had a rare experience, if you are not aware that it is quite possible for a person not only to fail to remember what he never did, but also to be unable to recall what he may actually have done. I told you truly that I was not able to recall the writing of the language in question, and, as a christian gentleman, you were bound to accept my statement. I told you further that I was unable to deny that I had done so. I possessed information from sources which I believed entirely reliable, which rendered it impossible for me to say that I might not have written the letter; and which, I think, would warrant me in believing that you were privy to steps taken to supersede Mr. Rand in the office of Superintendent of Education, and did, in fact, yourself exert much influence in effecting that result. I was told that you recommended Dr. Crawley as a suitable person to supersede Mr. Rand, and that although Dr. Crawley in declining the office so earnestly sought the appointment of Mr. Rand's confidential Clerk, that he was led to say in his recommendation of him what every one possessed of the means of judging, knew to be not in accordance with facts, yet your high recommendation of Mr. Hunt, secured the offer of the position to him. Mr. Hunt has himself stated, more than once, that he, at first, declined to assume the responsible duties of the office, but that influenced by the urgent solicitations of his friends in Dartmouth, of whom you were one, he finally consented to do so. He has also expressed his opinion more than once to the effect, that if he had declined to take the office, Mr. Rand would have been continued as Superintendent. I was told that a member of your family stated that he conversed with one or more members of the Government in reference to superseding Mr. Rand, a short time previous to the act being done. I was told that a very strong recommendation was written by you, setting forth that Mr. Hunt was well qualified to fill the place occupied by Mr. Rand, and that this paper with your consent was presented to His Excellency in Council, expressly for the purpose of furthering the determination of the Government to dismiss Mr. Rand, and that *confessedly* it did not fail of its object. And you do not need to be informed that the late Superintendent's dismissal came upon him, and indeed upon the whole country as suddenly as the explosion of a mine. He had long served his province with an ability and energy which had commanded the respect and confidence of the friends of education; and which assuredly entitled him, as a faithful public officer, to every reasonable consideration at the hands of the Government of his country. But without any intimation of neglect of duty, and without any knowledge of the designs of the Government, they, a few persons being

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