

Ottawa, and I took it up to Mr. Kirby to let him see it. I went for it a few days after, and he then told me he had sent it to Ottawa. The Government purchased those letters from us, and the business was transacted through the late Senator Plumb and Mr. Wm. Kirby. There were quite a number of letters belonging to Col. Daniel Claus and Col. Wm. Claus. I first went over these letters myself. There were a number of letters of no importance—these I destroyed, and about 150 or 200 private ones—these I kept. The rest I took up to Mr. Kirby to look at and see if they were important enough to send to Ottawa, and of these he did not return any to me. He at one time told us there were fifteen hundred went to Ottawa. Of course I did not keep any account of them, as I supposed I was dealing with honest men. I did not give any of them to Mr. Plumb, and, as I told you before, only two or three to Mr. Kirby for the signatures; so that, if he has kept any others, he has kept what belonged to the Government, and papers for which the Government has paid. There was between twenty and thirty letters from Col. De Peyster (who was in command at Detroit) to Col. McKie, Indian Agent at Amherstburg, or Drummond's Island. I did not keep any of these letters, nor a number from Capt. Matthews, who was military or private secretary to Sir Fredrick Haldimand. Then there was a copy of a letter from Daniel Claus (I have forgotten to whom) in which he says, "Joseph Brant was not at Wyoming," and he tells where he was at the time. When I took this letter up to Mr. Kirby, I told him it was a very important letter to go to Ottawa. There was also a letter from an Indian Agent (I have forgotten to whom written), referring to the death of Tecumseh. All these letters were given to Mr. Kirby to send to Ottawa.

C. A. M. CLAUS.

TO THE HON. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
Ottawa.

SIR,—Some fifteen or sixteen years ago the Government purchased from us a number of letters of the late Col. Daniel Claus and his son, Col. William Claus, which had belonged to my father. The business was transacted through the late Senator Plumb, and Mr. William Kirby, of Niagara. A short time ago it came to my knowledge that Mr. Kirby had in his possession a number of letters of Col. Daniel Claus and Col. William Claus. I wrote to Mr. Brimner and asked him if certain books and a manuscript I had given to Mr. Kirby to send to Ottawa were in the Archives, and he wrote back they were not there. I then wrote a second letter to him, telling all about the business, and that, with the exception of two or three letters which I had allowed Mr. Kirby to keep for the signatures, he had no right to have any letters