

The opinion, in so far as the writer is able to judge, was in accordance with the law, and no doubt conscientious. The barristers of Quebec and Montreal, at meetings convoked for the purpose, passed several very proper resolutions on the occasion, protesting against the proceedings of the assembly, as an undue exercise of power, a violation of the professional immunities to which all advocates are entitled, and subversive of the independence of the bar "alike necessary for the protection of individual character and the defence of private and public rights."

Chap.
XXXIV.
1834.

"Copy of a despatch from lord viscount Goderich, his Majesty's principal secretary of state for the Colonies, to lord Aylmer, governor in chief of Lower Canada, furnished by lord Goderich to the hon. D. B. Viger.—[Appendix Journal of Assembly, 1834.]

"Downing street, February 15, 1833.

"My lord—I have received your lordship's despatch No. 101, dated the 1st Decr. last, enclosing a series of resolutions passed by the house of assembly on the subject of the des-

to vote, to the value of 43s. per annum, or upwards. * * * *
No consent either by the candidates or returning officer, can give a right of voting to any individual without the qualification required by law. * * * * Therefore I am humbly of opinion that the said returning officer, in order to make a good and legal report, ought to set aside all those voters who have given their votes without alleging themselves to be proprietors, or by stating in the column which is given him in his poll book, that such an individual as voter is not proprietor, or not qualified.—I am of opinion also, that the very first questions which ought to be asked by a returning officer, in any election, are their names, additions, trade or profession, and qualification as voters, and neglecting that process, the returning-officer might be found hereafter in fault; and besides, I must state, that I am humbly of opinion, that it was the duty of the returning officer not to admit as voters, those persons who declared themselves unqualified."

"I have," &c.

(Signed) "ANDRE R. HAMEL, advocate gen."