

General in Council was pleased to appoint him with a fixed and good salary. That speaks well for the influence of Mr. Villeneuve in the Privy Council. Mr. Delisle should be proud of his associate !

MR. BARRY'S DISCARDED LETTER, REVEALING THE ABOMINABLE AND DISGRACEFUL PROCEED- INGS IN THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

MONTREAL, 30th January, 1873.

SIR,—I most respectfully beg to inform you that Mr. Assistant Appraiser Mercier has frequently stated to several officers of this House in my presence that he has frequently seen the Collector of this Port during the past two years enter the bedroom of a woman who is the wife of an employee and resides in the Custora House, and that on one particular occasion he, Mr. Mercier, had seen the Collector in the bedroom before referred to in company with the woman above mentioned, and that he, the Collector, had then and there his person exposed. Mr. Mercier states that he is prepared to make oath to the above facts, and I am prepared to prove that I have been sent by the Collector to the Grand Trunk R.R. Station with a letter from the Collector asking for free passes for this woman from Riviere-du-Loup and return, which passes I obtained from Mr. Hickson of the Grand Trunk Railway and handed to the Collector.

It is well known that the woman mentioned is in receipt of pay from the Customs, to the detriment of the housekeeper, who is in every respect her superior.

I have good reason to believe that Mr. Mercier has mentioned all he knew respecting this scandal, to several members of Parliament with whom he is acquainted, and that it is intended to have this subject enquired into during the ensuing session of Parliament. I therefore deem it my duty to place the Department in possession of this information.

And I must further inform you that it is a notorious fact that Mr. Appraiser Villeneuve has been levying blackmail on Customs officers and others, and that he uses his official position to do so ; his power and influence with the Collector being so great that officers, Customs brokers and others would not dare to refuse his frequent as well as extravagant demands. His system of blackmailing consists of borrowing money, sending subordinate officers to make purchases for him, Mr. Villeneuve, for which he refuses to pay when the accounts are rendered. I am prepared to hand you a long list of names of officers and others who have thus been blackmailed. I would also beg to state that, during the summer of 1871, Mr. Villeneuve informed me that the Collector expressed a desire to exchange his old watch for a new one, and that Mr. Villeneuve could raffle the Collector's old watch among the officers for more than the new watch would cost. He, Mr. Villeneuve, and I proceeded to Schwob Bros. and purchased a gold watch for \$100, and handed it to the Collector in exchange for the old watch. Mr. Villeneuve then caused the old watch to be raffled, and by so doing realized \$136. Mr. Tide Waiter Weir acted as Treasurer on this occasion, and that officer handed over to me the proceeds, which I immediately handed to Mr. Villeneuve, who requested the use of the money for three months, at the expiration of which time I insisted that Mr. Villeneuve should take up my note which Schwob Bros. held for the Collector's new watch. Mr. Villeneuve then said I should pay Schwob Bros., as he and the Collector had succeeded in getting me promoted ; but I would not submit to be blackmailed by Mr. Villeneuve or any other person. Consequently Mr. Villeneuve took up my note and brought it to my house on the evening of 7th March last, and on which date the Collector had sent word by Mr. O'Hara, his secretary, that he wished to see me at his private residence, he, the Collector, being then laid up with rheumatism. I proceeded to the Collector's house, was shown to his bedroom, and while there was requested to make up friends with Mr. Villeneuve