

other affidavits, one by Brakenridge himself and one by a brother in Welleley. These, together with a heavy "Complaint," had been forwarded to the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Quebec, and returned to the "local Agent" for explanation. Mr. Clark said he just intended to enclose, in one envelope, these two and the former two by Strachan and Forsythe, and to send them to the Commissioner telling him that a *comparative glance at the two sets of Affidavits would sufficiently explain the whole case*; but I never enquired if he had done so.

Mr. Clark received, from the Department, the duplicate Returns of his September Sales, about the beginning of June, of the following year, when he sent to inform me that the sale to me of Lot 2, on the 2nd Concession, had been "Stayed" and that he was requested to give me back the instalment. Had it been Brakenridge's lot or Lamont's lots I could have conjectured the cause; but I could not imagine why the sale of lot 2, should be "stayed." I had up to this time, refrained from interfering in the complaints and affidavits that had been presented against me; but I could refrain no longer. I immediately wrote to Mr. Cuscheon telling him why I had purchased those five lots on the 2nd Concession—that my family had grown up to the years of maturity without ever having been learned to work at anything save the farm, and that though I had been thirteen years in the Province, I had up till now, neglected to secure land for them. My letter was dated at Goderich, or, I think, the 11th or 13th of June and the Hon. Mr. Cuscheon's reply was dated at Quebec on the 16th. The substance of it was that the sale to me had been "Stayed" entirely through mistake, but that I might rest satisfied the error had been corrected and the lot had been entered in my name in the Books of the Department.

A short time after receiving this letter I took with me a gentleman of much experience in water-powers and mill machinery, and accompanied by four other men, we proceeded to the 2nd Con. of Grey and took the fall of the river on the breadth of my five lots. The fall is only about four feet and not available without drowning from fifty to one hundred acres of good land. On returning from the river Brakenridge was sitting at the entrance of the little hut on Lot 1, and in presence of the men who were with me and also of his own comrade, James Anderson, I told him he had been committing a serious trespass on my property, but

that so far from punishing him according to law, I had called for the purpose of telling him that if he would leave the lot immediately, I was willing to pay for his whole labor according to the estimate of two honest men, and if this offer was refused, I would not incur the cost of ejecting him, but I would never again offer him one shilling for any work he had spent or might spend on the lot. He followed us through the bush for more than two miles and seemed anxious for a settlement. When we had reached the line between the 5th and 6th Concessions, I halted, and in presence of the witnesses submitted another proposal, namely two half-lots on the first Con. with an instalment paid, providing he would leave the lot he then occupied and give me no further annoyance. He asked a week to consider this offer and I granted it. Week after week passed away and the only intelligence I had of Brakenridge was that, he had got up a *third set of affidavits* and a very false and abusive memorial against me, all which had been forwarded to the Commissioner of Crown Lands. A full year had now elapsed since I had purchased these lands. No improvements had been made on them in accordance with the conditions of sale, as my choopers had been prevented from beginning, by threats of annoyance. The sale of the lands to me had been fully confirmed by the head of the Department, and I was, therefore, aware that I must either assert and protect my own rights or suffer the consequences of my own negligence and good nature. On the 25th of September, 1855, I again started for Grey, with a load of provisions, bedding, cooking utensils, &c., &c., and three men who were to commence operations. On the evening of the 27th, Brakenridge and I had a meeting in the house of Thomas Strachan on the 3rd Concession. My men and a number of others were present, and after many proposals from both sides, I, with very great reluctance, consented to give him Lot five with the instalment paid, if he would quietly abandon Lot one. In this arrangement I was actually giving him at least, one hundred pounds more than the full value of his improvements.

On the following morning, he and his comrade, James Anderson, started with me for Goderich; I reached home on Saturday evening and they staid with me over Sunday, and on Monday forenoon, 1st of October, 1855, we went together to the Crown Lands office, where my youngest son, Hugh, gave Brakenridge an assignment of lot 5, and he gave me