

*wished to obtain*, his lordship would have them examined by some competent person, and if no objection should be found to their being communicated, they should be copied for my use, on the usual terms, at my expense.

Upon the receipt of this answer to my application, Mr. Stevenson immediately replied, explaining that *no particular documents* were asked for by the agent of New-York ; that the object of the State was to have its colonial history written from authentic documents, many of which were presumed to be in the State Paper Office, but whose particular character could not be known, and that they could not, therefore, be described ; that the limitations and restrictions imposed in former cases, were of course expected to be observed in the present, and that the agent would, in fact, consider himself subject to the control and pleasure of the department.

It was hoped that on a review of the subject, Her Majesty's Government would have looked more auspiciously upon the application, and that, so far from perceiving in it any thing objectionable, would rather have viewed the objects of the State as of a purely literary, and altogether praiseworthy character ; and, as such, commending themselves to the favorable and liberal consideration of an enlightened government. But the then ministry went out of office without having altered or modified their decision, which—considering the impossibility of my pointing out the particular documents, I might wish to have transcribed, without having the opportunity of learning even the date of one of them—amounted, in fact, to a refusal of the application of the State. While referring to this subject, I cannot omit availing myself of the occasion to acknowledge the warm and ready interest Mr. Stevenson took in the objects of the agency, and the personal obligations I feel for the courtesies he extended to the agent.

Meantime, pursuant to my instructions, and to Mr. Stevenson's advice, I had proceeded to Holland, with a view of investigating the archives of that country, for documents relating to our early colonial history ; intending, upon the termination of my researches in the Netherlands, to return to London, and avail myself of the expected liberality of the British Government. Immediately on my arrival at the Hague, I opened the business of my mission to Mr. Bleecker, then the *chargé d'affaires* of the United States near the King of the Nether-