

The permission thus obtained being permanent, or only to be revoked by any abuse of the privilege, not likely to occur, one great difficulty has been removed out of the way of an examination of the State papers in the Record Office. There are still, as will be seen, some restrictions in force, which may, as I have already said, be necessary in the case of private individuals, but which, as they can scarcely apply to obtaining copies by the Government of Canada of papers relating to the history of the Dominion, will undoubtedly be removed on further application to that effect being made.

By a similar application, permission was given to inspect the records and papers in the Privy Council, but I was unable to do more than visit the office and make a preliminary investigation, owing to the late date at which the privilege was granted. The permission is, as in the other cases, not confined to the immediate time, but extends to investigations that may require to be made hereafter.

The same remark applies to the leave granted, in answer to my application through the Colonial Office, by the Board of Management of the Royal Institution, which contains a series of papers known as the Carleton or Dorchester Collection. As the rooms were to be closed for a time, I spent some hours there, to satisfy myself as to the general character of the papers. Those I examined related chiefly to the transactions in which Carleton was engaged whilst in command in New York, &c., during the Revolutionary War. They will, I believe, repay careful examination on a future occasion, but I did not feel justified in entering upon a task that would interfere with the work of, for the time, more immediate concern. Besides, I believe that their contents will require to be compared carefully with those of State papers of the same period deposited in the Record Office. Mr. Vincent, the Secretary of the Royal Institution, kindly offered to make arrangements for a thorough examination, whenever it should be determined upon.

Having made such an examination and selection in the Public Record Office as enabled me to furnish a sufficient amount of work for the copyists, about the end of June I left for Paris, according to instructions, to make arrangements with Mr. Joseph Marmette, the Assistant Archivist, for the prosecution of the work in the French Departments of State. On my arrival, I found that His Excellency, Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador, to whom I was accredited by Lord Granville, was, unfortunately, absent, from ill health. Mr. Plunkett, the Secretary of the Embassy (since appointed Ambassador to Japan), was, however, most obliging. His assistance was not merely official or perfunctory. On the contrary, he appeared to take a personal interest in the success of the work. In the Departments of State, there was an entire absence of friction in the intercourse with the French officials. I may be permitted to refer to, and to acknowledge the attentions of the Heads of the Foreign and Colonial Departments—M. de Rialle and M. Aval—which secured for Mr. Mar-