

tating between giving your sanction to the Railway Bill and reserving it.' He replied :
' That is it.'

" On the 2nd of March, at 5 minutes to 1 in the afternoon, the aide-de-camp of the Lieutenant-Governor handed to Mr. De Boucherville the letter given hereafter.

" Before the aide-de-camp left he was asked how his Excellency was. The aide-de-camp replied that he was not so well, and then asked when we intended closing the Session. Mr. De Boucherville replied that he could not say, as many matters were in arrear.

" The following is the letter in question :—

" To the Honourable C. B. De Boucherville, Premier, Quebec :—

" Government House, Quebec, March 1, 1878.

" THE Lieutenant-Governor, taking into consideration the communication made to him verbally (on the 27th February) by the Premier, and also taking into consideration the letter which the Premier then gave to him, is prepared to admit that there had been no intention on the part of the Premier to slight the prerogatives of the Crown, and that there was only on his part an error committed in good faith in the interpretation that he gave to words used by the Lieutenant-Governor in the interview which they had on the 19th February instant; words which did not imply the authorisation attributed to them by the Premier.

" With this interpretation and the instructions given in consequence by the Premier to the Honourable Messrs. Angers and Church, these gentlemen did not willingly do anything against the duties of their office.

" As to the blank which the Lieutenant-Governor addressed to him from Rivière Ouelle the Lieutenant-Governor knew that such blank was to be used for the purpose of submitting the estimates to the House.

" This act was a token of confidence on his part, as stated by the Premier in his letter of the 27th, but it was confidential.

" The Lieutenant-Governor deems it his duty to observe that in his memorandum of the 25th February last he in no way expressed the opinion that he thought that the Premier ever had the intention of arrogating to himself the right of having measures passed without his approval, or of slighting the prerogatives of the representative of the Crown.

" But the Premier must not lose sight of the fact that although he had not so intended, the fact remains as he was told by the Lieutenant-Governor.

" The fact of having submitted several new and important measures to the Legislature without having previously, in any manner, consulted the Lieutenant-Governor, although without any intention of slighting his prerogatives, gives rise to one of those false positions which places the representative of the Crown in a difficult and critical situation with references to both Houses of the Legislature.

" The Lieutenant-Governor cannot admit that the responsibility of this state of things rests upon him.

" So far as concerns a bill entitled ' An Act respecting the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and Occidental Railway,' the Premier cannot apply to the measure the pretended general authorisation mentioned by him in his letter, for their interview took place on the 19th February, and the bill had then been before the House for several days, without the Lieutenant-Governor having been in any manner informed of it by his advisers.

" The Lieutenant-Governor then told the Premier how much he regretted such legislation; he represented to him that he considered it to be contrary to the principles of law and justice. Notwithstanding this, the measure was pushed on until it was adopted by both Houses.

" It is true that the Premier gives in his letter as one of his reasons for so acting ' that this permission of making use of the name of the representative of the Crown had been, moreover, always allowed him by the predecessor of the present Lieutenant-Governor, the late lamented Mr. Caron.'

" This reason cannot avail with the Lieutenant-Governor, for by so doing he would abdicate his position as representative of the Crown, a proceeding which neither the Lieutenant-Governor nor the Premier could reconcile with the duties of the Lieutenant-Governor towards the Crown.

" The Lieutenant-Governor regrets being compelled to state, as he told the Premier, that he has generally not been explicitly informed of the measures adopted by the Cabinet, although the Lieutenant-Governor often gave occasion therefore to the Premier, especially during the course of last year.