

P O S T S C R I P T .

MY LORD:—In preparing for the press another edition of the letter which I had the honour of addressing to Your Lordship as above, several matters appear to me deserving of further notice, which I shall therefore, in this Postscript, beg leave to bring more particularly under Your Lordship's observation.

I. LOYALIST CLAIMS STILL UNPAID. [See page 7.]

When previously addressing Your Lordship, I allowed to pass without remark the gross exaggeration in the amount stated by Mr. Hineks as remaining unpaid of claims "admitted to be just." My attention has again been directed to the subject by an able article in the *Montreal Herald* of the 12th June, and I shall now submit the reasons which induce me—and I hope will also induce Your Lordship—to believe that a very small portion indeed of the "just losses," of those who never "aided, assisted or abetted" the Rebellion of 1837–38, remains yet unpaid.

Immediately after the suppression of the first rebellion, in 1837, a Commission was appointed by Sir John Colborne, (now Lord Seaton,) to inquire into the losses occasioned by the rebels, and to decide thereon, an inquiry which they were afterwards instructed to extend to similar losses incurred during the second "unnatural rebellion"—that of 1838. In carrying out this task the Commissioners personally visited those districts of the country where the losses had occurred, inviting the tendering of just claims, and carefully investigating those submitted to them. In those days, my Lord, it was considered no "Star Chamber scrutiny" to enquire whether a man had borne arms against his Sovereign or not; and, in accordance with their instructions, these Commissioners took evidence on

oath whether the claimants had lent their aid, when called upon, to suppress the rebellion, and had lent no assistance, direct or indirect, to the misguided men engaged in it.

The Commissioners presented several careful and elaborate Reports, the result of which was the payment of claims approved by them, to the amount of £12,401 12s. 2d. Sterling in 1839, and of £8,637 6s. 9d. Sterling in 1840, together equal to £23,597 7s. 8d., Halifax Currency. Subsequent to these payments the Commissioners presented their final Reports, being the fourth and fifth, in which they report as correct additional claims to the amount of £9,986 7s. 1d. Currency. This sum was not paid at the time, but was afterwards provided for by the issue of Debentures, chargeable on the Marriage License Fund of Lower Canada, under the Act 9 Vict., cap. 65.

Now, my Lord, is it reasonable to suppose that when to the Commission, after a free and full inquiry of several years, only £35,583 14s. 10d. of claims admitted to be just were submitted, Your Lordship's present Ministry, "merely walking in the footsteps of their predecessors," should now discover *additional claims of precisely a similar nature* to the amount of £100,000? Or are we not rather forced to the conclusion that the amount of "just claims" that could now be made, must form a very small sum in comparison with those previously allowed?

The conclusion to which I have thus arrived, my Lord, receives additional weight from an examination of the Report presented by the second Commission of Inquiry, in April, 1846. Of the 2,176 several claims, of which a list is appended to that Report, there appear only about 170 presented by parties

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