

integrity, and honorable conduct, which had always distinguished them, I was perfectly aware; besides, having ascertained that their conditions and prices were infinitely more reasonable than those of the other Booksellers, I determined to accept their offers, namely, that they should be allowed a Commission of five per cent, for cash, on the price of purchase of the Books procured by them. I have the satisfaction of being able to state to the Committee, that these Gentlemen most scrupulously fulfilled their engagements, as will be plainly seen on reference to their invoices, in which they give credit for reductions, sometimes to a considerable amount, obtained by them on their purchases from other Booksellers. Thus, for example, *Valpy's* splendid Edition of the Classics, in one hundred and fifty-nine volumes, the selling price of which is from £100 to £120, is charged in their invoices at the incredibly low price of £27. The same thing occurs with regard to the binding which these Gentlemen have had done for the Library. The Messieurs *Whittaker & Co.*, of London, have recently been paid an Account, in which they charge ten shillings per volume, for half-binding about one hundred in folio volumes, whilst the Messieurs *Rich* charge but four shillings and six pence per volume, for work of the same kind. I cannot, therefore, hesitate in recommending that henceforth the Messieurs *Rich* be exclusively entrusted with all further purchases to be made in *England*.

After having left with these Gentlemen such instructions as they required, I deemed it advisable to visit the Government Offices, in the hope of receiving Donations; but the Session of the Imperial Parliament being closed, I became convinced that, in the absence of the Officers of the different Public Departments; it was quite impossible that I should present myself there with any chance of success. I nevertheless presented myself at the Board of Admiralty, where, after I had explained the mission with which I was charged, I was most graciously and kindly received by Admiral Sir *Francis Beaufort*, who gave orders that a complete series of the Maps and Plans relating to Captain *Bayfield's* explorations on the Lakes, and the River *St. Lawrence*, should be placed at my disposal. This beautiful collection, much more complete than any to be found for sale in the Geographical Book Stores, may be looked upon as a very precious Donation to the Library.

My presence not being further required in *London*, at least for some time, I started for *Paris*; and, on the tenth of November, arrived there. I lost no time in calling on Mr. *Adolphe de Puibusque*, so advantageously known during his stay in *Canada*, from 1848 to 1850. The intimate acquaintance I had had the opportunity of forming with this distinguished man of letters, the feelings of affection which I knew him to entertain for *Canada*, and his ardent desire to see the Legislative Library re-established, were to me as many reasons of assurance that he would lend me his most strenuous support. In this I was not mistaken. Mr. *de Puibusque* gave me the benefit of his advice in the choice of Books; pointed out the steps to be taken to obtain admission to the Ministerial Departments, and exerted himself to the utmost with reference to the manuscripts relating to the History of *Canada*. In a word, he facilitated, in every possible way, the success of my mission; and I here beg to tender to this friend of our Country, my most fervent acknowledgments of gratitude.

I was on the eve of beginning my purchases, when the Events of the 2d of December occurred in *Paris*. This circumstance had the effect of suspending my operations, and especially of retarding for a considerable time the answers to the requests I had made to the different Ministerial Departments. But other circumstances occurred which placed me in a position of the greatest trouble, by subjecting me to the most severe affliction that could have befallen me. My family had accompanied me to *Europe*, and about the period in question, my wife became seriously ill. Having on the one hand my solicitude and the care I owed to my wife, and on the other, the obligation I had of attending to the interests confided to me in my mission, I was at last obliged to confide my task to a confidential per-