

and shall, in the mean time, await his Excellency's commands with regard to any ulterior measures.

Should it occur to his Excellency that there is anything further to be done on my part which may tend to the elucidation of the subject before us, you will only have to signify his pleasure, and it shall be respectfully attended to.

Stephen Walcott, Esq.  
Principal Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Fletcher.

Correspondence  
respecting  
Judge Fletcher.

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. Justice *Fletcher* to Lieutenant-colonel *Glegg*, Principal Secretary to His Excellency Lord *Aylmer*, respecting certain Resolutions which were stated in the public Journals to have been passed by the Colonial Assembly of *Lower Canada*, impugning the judicial conduct of the Judge.

Sir,

Sherbrooke, 31 March 1831.

You will probably consider it as a very remarkable circumstance to receive an application to His Majesty's representative from a public functionary in my station, founded merely on statements in the newspapers; but his Excellency will, as I hope, regard it as one of the necessary consequences of a state of things in this province, which appears to me to be almost without a parallel in the history of the world; and if there be any error in the information which has given occasion to it, attribute the trouble which I am now giving you to that source.

I have received by the post of this day, as I generally do every Thursday, the majority of the public papers printed at Quebec during the last week; and I find in one of the latest of them, the *Quebec Mercury* of Saturday last, a copy of a string of resolutions which are said to have been adopted by the Assembly of this province on the 24th instant, relating to myself and some supposed judicial decisions of mine which took place several years ago, and which paper is of the most vituperative and violent description. The last of these resolutions indicates an intention of addressing his Excellency on the subject, and it is currently reported by some persons who have just arrived from Quebec, that this body, or some of the members of it, have actually done so.

I was enabled, when I was last at Quebec, to procure some sheets of printed paper, which appear to contain a copy of a report of some committee of the Assembly, which is stated to have been made in March 1829, and which seems to relate to the same subject, together with some minutes of evidence, as it is called, antecedently taken before that committee on the occasion; but which papers have, as I understand, been only committed to the press since the commencement of the present year. The whole of these are full of the grossest calumnies and misrepresentations, and I suppose the resolutions which are now circulated throughout the province are founded on the same basis.

I do not know whether his Excellency is aware that throughout the whole of these proceedings, which appear to have been long and voluminous, I have had no opportunity whatsoever of exculpating myself or entering into any explanation of my conduct, if it had required any; and I think, if he be not, that he will be astonished at this information; but such is the fact. The whole business before those committees has been carried on with the most profound secrecy, and no kind of notice whatever has ever been given to me by the Assembly or any of its officers that they had anything before them tending in the slightest degree to inculcate me with regard to the execution of my judicial functions, or relating in any manner to my public or private conduct.

His Excellency will perceive that it is impossible for me to hold any communication with such men as these; it would not only be derogatory to the station which I hold, but would probably lead to some personal insult to myself, or perhaps a still more aggravated one to the authority of my Sovereign, under which I have been called upon to execute the duties with which I am charged.

It is of course necessary for me, if there be any truth in the statements in the journals of the day, to endeavour to obtain some authentic intelligence respecting these very extraordinary transactions, and my object, therefore, in addressing you at present is, to beg that you will have the goodness respectfully to submit this letter to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, and to request that he will be pleased to direct that I may be furnished with such information relative to this incredible affair as can be supplied from the documents in your office, and as he may in his wisdom think it proper to communicate.

Lieutenant-Colonel *Glegg*,  
Principal Secretary.

I have, &c.  
(signed) J. Fletcher.

Enclosure 5, in No. 1.

My Lord,

Quebec, 18 May 1836.

YOUR Excellency was pleased to suggest, towards the close of the last interview with which you honoured me, on the subject of the complaints which have been made against me by the Provincial Assembly, that I should furnish you with some minutes, in writing, of the leading circumstances to which I then alluded, as tending to elucidate the nature of the case before us; to serve as memoranda by which your recollection might be aided, on a subsequent consideration of it, in order to your decision of the question now before you,