

Committee-Chamber, Bishop's Palace, Quebec, 6th. November 1790.

SIR,



I S Excellency LORD DORCHESTER, with the advice of the Council, was pleased, by his Order in Council of the 22d. of July 1788, to order, " That the Clerk of the Courts of Justice should on or before the 1st. day of October then next, file in the Council-Office an Estreat or Account of all Fines, Forfeitures and other dues, Articles of the Casual Revenues of the Crown, at any time within ten years then last past incurred in either of their respective Courts. That all Magistrates, Justices of the Peace and others should make a like Estreat of all such Dues as had accrued by any process before them in Sessions or otherwise. That like Estreats should be made by all Sheriffs, Clerks and other Officers of the Courts of Justice of every kind, of all and every sum of money that had at any time come to their hands, as part of the Royal Revenue. And to the end that it might be known by the report of the several persons officiating as Notaries Public what sums had accrued since they had respectively been in Office, for quints, lods et ventes or other the Seigniorial Rights of the Crown, the said Notaries are commanded to make due Report thereof to the Council-Office within the time aforementioned."

And further to Order, " That every the said respective Officers, Magistrates, Clerks of Court, Sheriffs, Coroners and others having any Public Monies in their hands, should forthwith pay over the same to His Majesty's Receiver-General for the use of the Crown, and that they should continue to do so in all times coming as often as they might receive any part of the Royal Revenue in the course of the execution of their trusts.

" And that the like Estreats, Returns, Accounts and Reports, should be filed in the said Council Office half-yearly, from and after the said first day of October, by every of the Officers aforementioned, under his signature and upon oath, and that a certified copy thereof be at the same time filed in the Office of His Majesty's Receiver-General."

His Lordship's Order aforesaid was published in the Quebec Gazettes of the 31st. July 1788 N<sup>o</sup> 1198, and 7th. and 14th. of August following N<sup>o</sup> 1199 and 1200.

On the 17th. of May last His Lordship, with the advice of the Council, was pleased to commit to a Committee of His Majesty's Council, of which I am Chairman, " to make inquiry how far the said Order of the 22d. of July 1788 has been complied with by the different Officers as well as Notaries Public, thereby required to furnish Estreats and Reports of the sums accrued to His Majesty in their respective Departments, calling upon such as may be in default for a Justification of their conduct, and reporting the Result."

In Order to enable the Committee to Report to His Lordship upon this Reference, I am directed by them to call upon You for the Reason why the said Order has not been complied with on your part, and I request your answer addressed to JENKIN WILLIAMS, Esquire, Clerk of the Council with all possible dispatch.

I have the Honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

*Edm<sup>d</sup> Barré*

*J. Williams, Esq.*