

politics of the province, and that on that subject it sympathizes with the House of Assembly, of which it may be said to be a branch.

In the month of July last, the mayor of Montreal addressed a letter to my civil secretary, and transmitted with it a set of resolutions adopted at an extraordinary meeting of the town-council, recommending that application should be made to me to extend to the city of Montreal the quarantine regulations which were then in force at Grosse Isle, the quarantine station 30 miles below Quebec; and also for pecuniary aid from the public funds for the relief of indigent emigrants. Being at that moment absent from Quebec, the above-mentioned communication from the mayor and town-council of Montreal was forwarded to me at Sorel; and an answer was returned, of which I have the honour of transmitting a copy (Enclosure, No. 4), and to which I take leave to solicit your Lordship's particular attention, the House of Assembly having described it as being "marked by coldness and insult."

No. 3 Enclosure.  
No. 4 Enclosure.

The restrictions necessarily imposed upon vessels arriving at Grosse Isle, in giving effect to the quarantine regulations established in the province, have been found productive of great, although unavoidable, hardship, inconvenience and loss to individuals, and to the mercantile body, and complaints upon that subject have even reached the Colonial-office; to add therefore to those evils, by subjecting individuals to further restrictions, after having undergone the necessary detention and examination for the prevention of the introduction of disease into the province, required by the regulations of the quarantine station, was if possible to be avoided. The repetition of those restrictions, therefore, was discouraged by me, when suggested by the town-council of Montreal. There is, moreover, another consideration which does not appear to have been contemplated by them. The city of Montreal is distant 180 miles from Quebec inland; and steam-vessels (the usual conveyance in the summer season for travellers from Quebec to Montreal) make two stoppages on the route, one at Three Rivers, and the other at Sorel; so that if it were deemed necessary to extend the quarantine regulations to Montreal, as suggested by the town-council, it would have been equally necessary to extend these regulations, first to Three Rivers, and then to Sorel. In this manner, therefore, persons arriving from beyond sea would be subjected to all the restrictions of quarantine at four distinct stations in successions; namely, at Grosse Isle, at Three Rivers, at Sorel, and finally at Montreal.

The application for the issue of funds from the public chest in aid of indigent emigrants must have been made by the town-council of Montreal with the full knowledge of my ineffectual attempts to induce the House of Assembly to make the necessary appropriation for the relief of that class of emigrants, upon which subject I shall have occasion to add a few words presently.

I cannot refrain from remarking that these complaints, in relation to the extension of the quarantine station to Montreal, and the issue of public money in aid of indigent emigrants, come with a very ill grace from the House of Assembly, and under all the circumstances of the case.

During the session of the last year, I sent down a message to the House of Assembly, to the following effect:

"With reference to the measures adopted by the Executive Government, for giving effect to the provisions of the Quarantine Act of the year 1795, as communicated to the House of Assembly during the present session, the Governor-in-chief now recommends to the House to take into their consideration the expediency of placing at the disposal of the Executive Government, to be made use of according to circumstances, a sum adequate to defray the expenses of the necessary improvements in the establishment at Grosse Isle, and to provide for its current expenses during the ensuing season, in the event of its being deemed necessary again to resort to the provisions of the before-mentioned Act."

The above-recited message remained unnoticed on the table of the House of Assembly, and the session terminated without any provision whatever having been made by the Assembly for giving effect to the quarantine establishment.

It was under these circumstances, and when a petition was before the House of Commons, on the part of the House of Assembly, demanding that articles of impeachment should be preferred against me by that Honourable House before the House of Lords, founded upon various accusations, amongst which were enumerated

(alleged)