

PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY COMMISSION ROOM,
Kingston, 17th November, 1848.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you that, in reference to certain circumstances connected with yourself, which have incidentally come before the Commission in the course of the Penitentiary Enquiry, the Commissioners have the subject of your letter under their consideration.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ADAM FERGUSON,
"Chairman.

"To James Hopkirk, Esq.,
" &c., &c., &c."

PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY COMMISSION ROOM,
Kingston, 23rd November, 1848.

"SIR,—The Commissioners will be ready to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, to hear from you any explanations you may think proper to offer respecting the evidence taken before them, which may reflect upon you, with the understanding, however, that the Commissioners have come to no determination upon the expediency or in expediency of hearing any witnesses at this time.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ADAM FERGUSON,
"Chairman.

"To James Hopkirk, Esq.,
" &c., &c., &c."

Ques. 675. Please refer again to the Commissioners' Letter Book, and state whether there is not there recorded a letter from Mr. Fergusson, the Chairman, dated 26th November, 1848, in answer to Mr. Hopkirk's of the 24th, complaining of the non-attendance of the Commissioners on the day and hour appointed, which is in the following terms: "In the confusion of yesterday, the Commissioners neglected to reply to your communication of the 24th instant; I have now to inform you that the Commissioners propose to postpone the explanations which you desire to make to them, until the return of their colleagues, which they have reason to presume will be in a few days."—Ans. I have referred, there is such a letter, it is marked in the margin as having been "cancelled, Mr. Amiot not consenting, and Mr. Fergusson withdrawing his approval of the terms of the letter;" from which memorandum I presume it was not sent.

Ques. 676. Were not the promises contained in the Commissioners' letters of the 6th November, 17th November, 23rd November, and 26th November, made by your brother Commissioners in the absence of Mr. Brown and yourself, and were not Mr. Brown and you "the colleagues" until whose return they proposed to postpone the explanations which Mr. Hopkirk desired to make?—Ans. Mr. Brown and myself were absent on a visit to the United States at the time these letters were written.

Ques. 677. Is there not also recorded in the Commissioners' Letter Book, a letter from the Chairman to Mr. Hopkirk, under date 27th November, 1848, stating that "they (the Commissioners) will acquaint you (Mr. Hopkirk) when