

the fact so far as the instructions are concerned; so that Mr. Bouchette stands convicted under his own hand of having delivered fictitious documents to the Assembly. These papers are marked Nos. 1, 2 and 5, in the report of the committee. In further explanation, it is only necessary to remark, that the instructions signed by Colonel Ready do not contain the supplementary instruction, which allows the location of all applicants by a "permit of occupation," and therefore cannot make any reference to the "form of the permit," alluded to by Mr. Bouchette, a fact which Mr. Bouchette must have known if he had given me the instructions.

It has also been seen, that the principal cause of the exaggerated colouring which has been given to the charges against me, is the concealment from the committee of the right which I enjoyed of obtaining grants for my labourers. The mere inspection of the proceedings will show that the committee has been kept in ignorance of this fact, although it must have been well known to the parties conducting the inquiry. It is impossible that the committee could have come to the conclusion embodied in the report of the surveyor-general, had he delivered to them a copy of the statement of fees paid him in October 1824; the details in that statement show so clearly the distinction observed at the time between my labourers and other settlers, as likewise the lands set apart for my per-centage, that they must have been convinced of the correctness of my proceedings in every particular. I have heard it said that Mr. Bouchette did not think himself called upon to make public any statements of his fees; but I conceive that in this instance, wherein the exhibition of that paper would have shown the true character of my transactions with my people, he was bound in common justice to produce it, and as a public officer he had no right to suppress or withhold any document received from me as "agent," when he was ordered to furnish all "statements, accounts or letters furnished, rendered or written" by me "relative to my situation of agent, or concerning my acts as such agent."

But if Mr. Bouchette held himself justified in withholding that part of the statement relating to fees, he should not have suppressed the remainder, for he must have been conscious that in so doing he exposed the committee to error or injustice in their inquiry, and therefore it behoved him to guard them from such evil by apprizing them of the facts within his knowledge. As a public officer called upon for information on a matter involving the reputation of another person in office, it was competent to him to offer any observations or to state any circumstances necessary to the correct understanding of the subject. Now, Mr. Bouchette cannot deny that he was perfectly aware of the right which I had always exercised of nominating my labourers for grants prior to my appointment as agent; although he may probably screen himself on the plea of not having received official communication on the subject from the Governor. It cannot however be credited that the contents of Earl Bathurst's despatch of December 1817, conveying this authority, should be forgotten by the head of a department principally concerned in carrying it into effect. The inquiries respecting the grants of my reservations to Major Loring and Colonel Fulton, with the discussions concerning the resumption of those lands, and the extended grants to me and my associates, which have been acted upon, were matters that necessarily came officially within the knowledge of the surveyor-general, and of which he cannot plead ignorance; indeed the subjects noticed in this despatch were of a nature to excite too much interest to be easily forgotten, the most prominent object being a public functionary of high standing; and the whole contents of the despatch formed at that time the subject of common conversation in the public offices. Neither can Mr. Bouchette forget, that after the receipt of this despatch his hands had been tied up from disposing of any more of the lands in Ascot, which every claimant of a grant was eager to obtain. To come down to a later period, it is not probable that Mr. Bouchette has forgotten that he was cognisant of all my proceedings in October 1824, when he received from me the balance of the fees due on my locations. In concluding this subject, I feel myself borne out in the opinion that I have before expressed, that the delivery of fictitious documents to the Assembly is proved by the evidence furnished by Mr. Bouchette himself; and that this fact, with the suppression of another document, and withholding information indispensable to the correct understanding of the question, afford strong grounds for accusing Mr. Bouchette of intentionally and collusively deceiving the Assembly, with the design of placing my proceedings in a light wholly at variance with the truth, and thus to give a colour to the charges brought against me. I do not imagine that Mr. Bouchette would commit a gratuitous injury on my reputation, but I have every reason to believe that he has been seduced into this conspiracy by the feelings of vengeance and malice excited by the censure cast on him for the numerous instances of negligence and irregularity which I have had occasion to comment upon in the discharge of my official duty.

I shall be most happy to furnish any further explanations that his Excellency may desire.

I have, &c.

(signed) *William B. Felton.*

No. 12.

Sir,

Castle St. Lewis, Quebec, 13 June 1836.

With reference to my communication to you, of the 2d ult., intimating that it was the intention of the Governor-in-chief, acting upon the opinion of the law-officers of the Crown, to issue a commission ofoyer and terminer, for the purpose of trying in a court of law such of the charges preferred against you by the House of Assembly as should be found suscepti-