

the shadow of a wish for your withdrawing yourself from your government."*

It was one of those impracticable theories of the colonial office in London which have so frequently worked mischief in Canada, that the commanding officer in New York should conduct the political affairs of Canada at Quebec. Carleton saw the absurdity of the plan, and took his own means of avoiding compliance. He wrote in September that it was not possible for him to go to Canada that fall, and what reads somewhat strangely, when his presence in Canada in 1786 and the part he took in carrying out the provisions of the Canada act are considered, that he should have added: "It is wholly unlikely that I shall do so at any time. I did not quit that government with a purpose upon any event of returning thither." In December, he wrote: "No occasion whatever can bring me into your Province."

In April, Shelburne brought to the notice of Haldimand certain complaints made against him, and while asking for explanations, desired him to secure the affections of the people by his administration. Shelburne was a disciple of Jeremy Bentham, and the advice was a cheap exhibition of philanthropy. The complainants were the French prisoners, or their wives, who had been confined for treasonable communication with congress in order to incite to invasion; together with Mrs. Hay, the wife of a prisoner, who made great efforts to prove the innocence of her Scotch husband. There was also a Canadian seignior among the number who brought a charge of wrong suffered: Cuthbert who had held a commission in the army, and was a member of the legislative council. Orders had been given for a supply of cordwood, to be taken from the seigniories in the neighbourhood of the garrison of Sorel, among them from that of Berthier. Cuthbert protested, on the ground that the government had no such power. Haldimand maintained the contrary view. He contended that the crown was entitled, in the emergency, to the supply of wood. No objections were raised by other

* [Can. Arch., B. 45, p. 53. Townshend to Haldimand, 31st July, 1782.]

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