

SIR JAMES CRAIG

preference without exciting a degree of jealousy which might occasion unpleasant discussions. I am sorry you have deprived yourself of the very handsome dagger your partiality induced you to send me. No such proof was needed to convince me of your friendship. We have not a word of intelligence here more than what the Quebec papers give. The Americans appear to me to be placed in a curious and ridiculous predicament. War with that republic is now out of the question, and I trust we shall consider well before we admit them as allies."

A letter from Sir James Craig to Lord Castle-reagh, of August 4th, gives the possible reason why he delayed equipping Cuthbert's company. This letter is substantially as follows:

"The militia have hitherto been only contemplated in theory, except in the town of Quebec. Lord Dorchester could not assemble any in 1775. In the following year I commanded the largest body of them brought together since the Conquest, but we were then in pursuit of a flying enemy. Since that period no attempt to assemble them has been made. The Canadians of to-day are not war-like; they like to make a boast of their militia service, but all dislike the subordination and constraint. If the *noblesse* and *seigneurs* possessed their old influence it might be different. Lawyers and notaries have now sprung into notice, and with them insubordination. The members returned to the new House consist of fifteen lawyers, fourteen farmers, and