

"cation, of this day's date, addressed by you to him, respecting your request for an immediate investigation into certain statements made before the Commissioners. I am instructed to say, in reply that you will be afforded an opportunity of explaining or disproving any statements prejudicial to you, at the earliest moment consistent with the other arrangements of the Commissioners."—Ans. They are true extracts.

Ques. 673. Please further refer to the Commissioners' Letter Book, and say whether the extracts or statements in which Mr. Hopkirk's name occurred, and to which you refer, in your answer to Mr. Brown's question 433, as having been transmitted to Mr. Hopkirk, were not so transmitted to him by Mr. Brown, in a letter dated 4th November, 1848, after the before mentioned repeated applications on his part, and promises on the part of Mr. Brown, and does not Mr. Brown, in his letter transmitting them, state, that they are transmitted "in compliance with his urgent and oft repeated requests?"—Ans. In reply, I give the entire letter, as follows: "I am desired by the Commissioners, in compliance with your urgent and oft repeated requests, to forward for your information, the enclosed statements affecting you, which have been made under oath before the Commissioners, and to say that they will be prepared to receive any explanations thereupon which you may desire to offer. You will distinctly understand that this step is taken at this moment entirely at your desire, and that the Commissioners had otherwise intended to have inquired into the truth or falsity of these statements before calling on you for an explanation."

Ques. 674. Please again to refer to the Commissioners' Letter Book, and say whether there does not appear a letter from Mr. Commissioner Thomas to Mr. Hopkirk, under date 6th November, 1848, after the statements affecting him had been at last obtained, assuring him in reply to his letter of 4th November, that the Commissioners "would communicate with him at their earliest convenience;" and is there not another letter to the same effect from the Chairman of the Commission, dated 17th November, in reply to Mr. Hopkirk's of the 16th, and is there not also another letter from the Chairman, dated 23rd November, to Mr. Hopkirk, stating that "The Commissioners will be ready to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock to hear from you (Mr. Hopkirk) any explanation you may think proper to offer respecting the evidence taken before them (the Commissioners) which may reflect on you?"—Ans. The three letters referred to in this question are as follows:

"PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY COMMISSION ROOM,
Kingston, 6th November, 1848.

"SIR,—In the temporary absence of Mr. Brown, the Secretary of the Commission, I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 4th instant; and I am desired by my colleagues to express our regret, that our present occupations will prevent us from giving our immediate attention to the explanations which you desire to afford us on the subject of your letter, and I have further to assure you that we will again communicate with you at the earliest convenient opportunity.

"I have the honor to be, Sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

"E. CARTWRIGHT THOMAS,

"Commissioner P. P.

"To James Hopkirk, Esq.,

"&c., &c., &c."