

causes" which prevented him, during so many years, from carrying out what he states to have long been his intention; but, in the absence of explanation, I venture to submit, that a public officer who for years conceals from his official superiors such facts and opinions, as are disclosed in Mr. Des Vœux's letter to Earl Granville, is guilty of a grave dereliction of duty. I venture further to submit my reasons for believing that Mr. Des Vœux was influenced in writing his letter to Earl Granville by a feeling of vindictiveness against the planters, and others, who took a prominent part in the impeachment of the late Chief Justice of British Guiana, of whom Mr. Des Vœux was notoriously a zealous partizan. Mr. Des Vœux declares, in paragraph 49, that he had aroused "the enmity of the planting body," and again in paragraph 56, he refers "to the bitter enmity of the planters." He attributes this alleged enmity to his zeal in reforming abuses, and to his upright conduct as a magistrate, but it will be easy to prove, by a reference to dates, that the enmity against the planters, on the part of his friend, Mr. Beaumont, and himself, had no connexion whatever with his decisions as a magistrate, which were given long after the period of the controversy, which culminated in the removal of Mr. Beaumont from the bench.

Those acquainted with the recent history of the colony of British Guiana, are aware that the unfortunate controversy, to which I regret to have again to refer, produced intense bitterness of feeling on both sides. Mr. Des Vœux has had the hardihood to allege that "one of the chief real, though "not ostensible causes of the hatred of the planters for the "late unfortunate Chief Justice," was the Chief Justice's support of a decision of his, in dismissing a complaint made against a female immigrant for not performing tasks when "near her confinement." I can unhesitatingly affirm that such a decision would never have excited enmity on the part of the planters of British Guiana; but, unfortunately for Mr. Des Vœux, his decisions must have been given between February, 1867 and Mr. Beaumont's removal in 1868, while the address for the removal of Mr. Beaumont from the bench,