

his secretary, that "His Majesty's law-servants were entirely confided in, as to the course of proceeding in all criminal prosecutions:" and accordingly his Lordship was referred, as prosecutor in the cases alluded to, "for such concert with the Attorney-General as might be agreeable to that officer." This answer certainly appeared to leave the matter entirely in the discretion of the Attorney-General. Mr. Robinson, who held that office, was of a family which is connected with the North-West Company in commercial transactions. He had been recently appointed to his office by Lord Bathurst; and soon after his arrival in Canada, in a letter, dated November 16 1817, addressed to a mercantile house in Montreal, (who acted as agents to the Earl of Selkirk,) he expresses himself as follows: "I was retained by the North-West Company, before I left England, as their counsel in all matters between them and Lord Selkirk, except in those cases in which I may be officially employed as Crown officer." There was every reason to suppose that in these circumstances this gentleman would be anxious to relieve himself from a situation of such delicate responsibility, as that of having to conduct prosecutions officially against persons with whom he was connected by the ties of private friendship, as well as by professional engagements, and that he would have gladly availed himself of the opportunity of devolving the entire management of these prosecutions on Lord Selkirk's counsel. The answer which he addressed to his Lordship, dated April 19 1818, seems to indicate that he was not wholly insensible to the delicacy of the predicament in which he stood; but, with respect to his practical determination, it is not easy to collect any thing from