

" at once be come to by the Executive, as to
 " how this important work can now legally
 " be accomplished, and by whom the docu-
 " ments, when completed, are to be certified.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) " G. H. RYLAND.

The Honorable Mr. *Smith*,
 Attorney General, &c. &c. &c.,
Canada East.

On the back of these two documents, are the words, " put by."

Mr. *Ryland* not having succeeded in obtaining possession of the Deeds not registered at full length at the time of his appointment, they remained to the number of several thousand, in the possession of Mr. *Middleton*, who, although not officially qualified to do so, continued to transcribe them with the assistance of a number of writers, under no responsibility whatever. And after they were transcribed, that gentleman carried them to his own house, on the pretext that he had purchased at a public sale the fees due to Mr. *Dowling's* estate for the registration of these documents. So that persons who go to the Office for their papers are obliged to be referred to Mr. *Middleton*, at his residence, where they may receive them from him on payment of the fees due. including 2s 6d which he exacts for a certificate, drawn up but not signed. This certificate must be taken to the office, where it is verified and signed by the Deputy Registrar, who has a right to exact 2s 6d more for doing so. This abuse has lasted for more than three years, and has never been pointed out.

I must confine myself to these few observations, on the conduct and management of the Registry office for the County of *Montreal*, under Messrs. *Dowling* and *Middleton*, and I must repeat that I regret exceedingly the absolute necessity under which I find myself, of exposing acts and irregularities, which, if they had been brought to light sooner, could more easily have been corrected and rectified; and which have now attained such a degree of complexity, that it will cost a great deal of labour to remedy them, or even to mitigate their serious consequences.

APPOINTMENT of Mr. *Ryland* as Registrar for the County of *Montreal*. Precautions taken by him before assuming the office—present state of the said office.

Although Mr. *Dowling* died in May, 1845, it was only in the month of July following that Mr. *Ryland* assumed the management of the Registry Office for the County of *Montreal*. That establishment was then in such a state of disorder and confusion that Mr. *Ryland* hesitated some time before he took charge of it.

After repeated communications on the subject with the Honorable Mr. *Daly*, Provincial Secretary, and the Honorable Mr. *Smith*, Attorney General for *Lower Canada*, which led to no result, Mr. *Ryland* determined to cause a *procès-verbal*, or inventory, to be drawn up, to establish the state of the said office at the time when he took charge of it. This is the instrument of which I have already spoken.

That gentleman thought it right also, in order to protect himself from all responsibility for the acts of his predecessor, to commence a fresh series of books and of numbers.

These wise precautions led the public to expect a better administration of the office. I am, however, obliged to state that this expectation has not been realized; and that the present state of the books, registers, indexes, documents, &c., therein, is not such as to afford proof of either zeal or method on the part of Mr. *Ryland* in the discharge of his duties. I will take the liberty of submitting to Your Excellency the facts which I have ascertained by the means placed at my disposal.

Mr. *Ryland* took the oaths required by the Ordinance, and gave the Bond, of which a copy is annexed to this Report.

I must draw Your Excellency's attention to that clause of the Ordinance of the 4th *Victoria*, cap. 30, which prescribes the amount of security to be given by the Registrars, and points out the public functionaries before whom such security should be given.

That part of the eighth section of the said Ordinance which relates to such security is in these terms—" And every such Registrar shall also, before he takes upon himself the
 " execution