

Sir,

Windsor, 27 January 1848.

NOVA SCOTIA.

ONE of the journals published this morning at Halifax, having announced, I presume correctly, a division in the House of Assembly yesterday, from which it appears that the House has declared its want of confidence in the present advisers of your Excellency, I avail myself of the first opportunity at my command humbly and respectfully to place my seat in the Executive Council at the disposal of Her Majesty.

In thus tendering my resignation of that high station, I hope you will allow me to offer an assurance of my sincere esteem and respect for your Excellency, and of the grateful sense I entertain of the confidence and kindness which you have always extended to me; and I beg you will permit me to express a fervent wish that the future course of your government may confer increased happiness, and reflect new honour upon your Excellency, by its continuing to receive the approval of our Most Gracious Sovereign and the gratitude of Her Nova Scotian subjects, rapidly advancing in wealth and prosperity beneath the fostering influences of your Excellency's administration.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *Lewis Morris Wilkins.*

His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir John Harvey,  
&c. &c. &c.

Government House, 28 January 1848.

2½ P. M.

Honourable Gentlemen,

IT is an act alike of justice to you and of relief to my feelings to express to you, on the occasion of your retirement from your position as my confidential advisers, the high opinion which I entertain of the ability, zeal, integrity and honour with which you have discharged your delicate and important functions, and to assure you that you leave me impressed with a grateful sense of the valuable services which you have rendered to the public interests of the province and to myself, as Her Majesty's representative, during the period of our official connexion.

I have, &amp;c.

(signed) *J. Harvey.*

The Honourable S. B. Robie.  
Sir R. D. George, Bart.  
J. W. Johnston.  
E. M. Dodd.  
M. B. Almon.  
L. M. Wilkins.

Sir,

Halifax, 28 January 1848.

THE House of Assembly having recorded its declaration of want of confidence in the Executive Council, I deem it proper to tender to Her Majesty, through your Excellency, the resignation of my office of Attorney-General of this province, with which, by the royal favour, I was honoured.

I beg permission to state, for the information of his Lordship the Colonial Secretary, that the office of Attorney-General was conferred upon and accepted by me, without the condition of dependence on a Parliamentary majority; nor may it be unworthy of notice, that had such a condition been annexed, it was in my power to have avoided its effect by my preferment to a valuable office held on a tenure of acknowledged certainty, the Mastership of the Rolls having been, by a very peculiar circumstance, open for my acceptance at the same time with the office of Attorney-General. These facts are in the knowledge of the noble Lord who, at the time, administered the government of this province; and it is matter of history that at the period of my appointment as Attorney-General, under the Royal Sign Manual on the 21st May 1841, the changes introduced into Nova Scotia by Lord Sydenham in 1840 did not annex to the office the political tenure above mentioned.

However I might, therefore, under the letter and spirit of Earl Grey's despatch of 31st March 1847, be warranted in withholding my resignation of the office of Attorney-General, until Her Majesty's pleasure were known, on the claim I have thus briefly suggested; yet I have judged it to be more fit to tender that resignation immediately, because from the nature of the office, and from my holding a seat in the Assembly, the arrangements of our successors in office might otherwise be obstructed, and the public business be retarded.

Whatever relates personally to myself I leave in the hands of his Lordship to be dealt with as he may judge proper, assured that whether I shall be held to be entitled to consideration either in the way of professional preferment, or in any other manner or not, the subject will receive such attention and regard as it may merit.

That I may avoid every occasion of misapprehension, I beg to state, that as nothing has ever occurred, as far as I am aware, to confer a political tenure upon the office of Advocate-General, which I have the honour to hold by commission under the great seal of the High Court of Admiralty, dated 26th May 1841, or to give it any necessary connection with the Attorney-Generalship, I trust I violate no propriety in not offering the resignation of that office. It has no salary nor any emoluments, except what are altogether uncertain, and these are generally of inconsiderable amount, arising from accidental business; yet this business would increase should certain national relations accrue, while the office confers