

Mr. *Cuvillier* called to the Chair.

Read the Order of Reference, and the Message of His Excellency the Governor in Chief of the Thirty-first January One thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, relative to Sir *Francis Burton*.

A Draft of a Report on the subject matter of the said Message was submitted to the Committee, and adopted by a Majority, Mr. *Taschereau* dissenting, and is as followeth :

FIRST REPORT.

Your Committee have given to the Message of His Excellency the Governor in Chief, of the Thirty-first January last, respecting His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor Sir *Francis Burton*, all the attention which the importance of the matter referred required.

It appears to your Committee, by that Message, that His Excellency has thought proper to request of His Majesty's Government an explanation respecting a Dispatch addressed to Sir *Francis Burton*, (but received after his departure from this Province,) relating to a previous Dispatch addressed to him of the fourth June One thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

That His Excellency Sir *Francis Burton* arrived in England in November One thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, and as the Dispatch in question must have issued from the Colonial Office before his arrival, it must have reached His Excellency the Governor in Chief before the fourteenth March One thousand eight hundred and twenty-six, on which day it pleased His Excellency to give your Honourable House communication of that of the Fourth June One thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

That your Honourable House, deeming it of vital importance to ascertain whether His Majesty's Government had not been induced to entertain a different opinion relative to the Supply Bill passed in the Session of One thousand eight hundred and twenty-five, from that which was expressed in the Dispatch of the Fourth June of that year, did, on the Third of February last,