

After being engaged in active military duty for a period of more than eighteen years, fourteen of which were, previously and during the late War, spent in the two Canadas, I entered into the civil service of Upper Canada in the year 1816, being requested by the Head of a Public Department to accept a situation in it, with a salary of £125, sterling, per annum.

For many years the remuneration I received from the Government was insufficient to defray the expenses of my family, even on the most limited scale of the most rigid economy. But in order to retain the office, and in the hope that diligence would gain for me increase of salary or promotion, I had recourse to borrowing further means of subsistence, and going otherwise into debt to support and educate a rapidly increasing family. During those years, too, great injustice was done me by the Government, which can be shown by orders in Council and Acts of Parliament, whereby I sustained losses which in my embarrassed circumstances were great to me. I mention this injustice here, not by way of complaint at this late period, but to account in part for the embarrassments into which I have been brought, even by those who were especially bound in duty to do me justice, and to strengthen and encourage me in the public service.

My efforts to abate evil and to do good in the Province I can truly say were untiring, which, with being long and generally known in it, led me into unavoidable expense; one cause of which expense was the correspondence addressed to me by half-pay Officers, discharged Soldiers, Officers and Men of the Militia, and by many of the people of the country not even belonging to those classes. The amount of postage paid by me during eleven years on this account alone certainly exceeded £150, and probably exceeded £200.

In the midst of trials and embarrassments the most distressing to me, I struggled onwards until the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1837, when the part which the Almighty enabled me to take led the Assembly of Upper Canada promptly and spontaneously to Address Her Majesty to reward me, and in the Address the Legislative Council as promptly joined. Filled with gratitude to both Houses, and with undoubting confidence that I should now be relieved from the painful pressure which so long harassed my mind, I waited the answer to the Address. But to my deep and unexpected disappointment the answer afforded me no relief. The two Houses proceeded again in my behalf, and passed a Bill the following Session to enable Her Majesty to grant me the reward, which upon the Address could not be granted. This Bill was disallowed; and in the third year a second Bill was passed containing further provisions to enable Her Majesty to carry out the intentions of the two Houses, but that also was disallowed; and no other steps have, until now, been taken to carry out in my behalf the intentions of the Provincial Legislature, so earnestly and so frequently expressed by them.

After suffering many years from insufficiently paid services, and from acts of positive injustice, my mind was highly excited by the gratifying conduct of the two Houses in my behalf, in February and March, 1838; but the succeeding disappointment produced the most injurious effects upon my mind, and the subsequently excited hopes, and repeated disappointments, have reduced it to a state which I find humiliating and most painful even to allude to. After more than five years of treatment which I will not venture to characterize, and having in that time paid upwards of one thousand pounds interest on my debts, I find myself brought to the greatest extremity, which impels me to this extraordinary effort to obtain speedy relief, by making a direct appeal to every one of the Legislators of both Houses of the United Province, to whose decision my case is to be referred, but to many of whom the circumstances of it can, as yet, be little known.

Deeply also was I injured, and deeply did I suffer, by being, while in the midst of my embarrassments kept without one half of my salary during the interval between the closing of the last Session of the Parliament of Upper Canada and the meeting of the United Legislature, (one half of it then depending, as it long had depended, on an annual vote of the Assembly,) and for the payment of which I pressingly applied to Lord Sydenham, but for which His Lordship assured me he could not issue a warrant. But of his earnest desire to do so I was entirely satisfied; and I am grateful to the present Assembly for having promptly voted the sum due to me soon after the commencement of their first Session.

I am not insensible to the character of this kind of complaining on my part, and were I the only sufferer I might, perhaps, be blameable for not submitting in silence. But when relatives and friends have injured themselves to relieve me, and when many of them are thus made to endure grief and sorrow