

such an office. I agreed with Dr. Strachan that he should ascertain from Mr. Wood the probable length of his stay in this country, without communicating to him the particular object of the enquiry; and Dr. S. informed me, when I next saw him (12th May), that Mr. Wood was likely to be detained in Canada a year or more. As that gentleman, from all I knew of him, appeared to me to be a person in all respects qualified for the situation in question by talents as well as by character, I confess it never occurred to me to be necessary that I should return to the Chief Justice to consult him on the point; but, without hesitation, I decided on suggesting Mr. Wood to your Excellency as a fit person to be substituted for the Attorney-General in the proposed Commission. Dr. Strachan's last communication to me, *i. e.* of the probable length of Mr. Wood's stay in the country, was made on Monday the 12th May; on which day I embarked to join your Excellency at Stamford, and proceeded with you to Kingston, without returning to York. During our absence, I laid this suggestion before you, and your Excellency was pleased to approve of Mr. Wood's being substituted for the Attorney-General, and direct that the necessary steps should be taken as soon as possible.

24th May.—On the morning of Saturday the 24th May, your Excellency landed at York from Kingston. The Commission for the Claims, which had been prepared in blank, was brought to you by Mr. Cameron, signed by you at the Government House, and the names given to Mr. Cameron to insert in it. On Thursday the 29th the Appointments appeared in the Gazette.

31st May.—On Saturday morning the 31st, your Excellency arrived at York, to preside at the meeting of the Bible Society, which was held at 2 o'clock, *p. m.* that day; and it was whilst the subscribers were assembling in front of the School-house, that the Chief Justice took occasion to ask of me whether the name of Mr. Alexander Wood, whom he had seen in the Gazette as appointed to the Board of Claims, had been in the original list of persons proposed for that situation, which I had formerly shown to him. I immediately replied that it certainly had not;—that Dr. Strachan, whom I had likewise been desired to consult, and who had agreed in his sentiments about the Attorney-General's probable desire to be excused from the office, had suggested in his room Mr. Alexander Wood;—that as Mr. Wood was a person of whose fitness in all respects I could entertain no doubts, it had not occurred to me to be necessary to return and consult him about it, but had submitted the name to your Excellency, and had received your orders thereon. The Chief Justice begged that I would bear in mind these circumstances, which I of course said that I would do, and that I would explain to your Excellency: and here the conversation broke off. It however naturally struck me that the anxiety manifested by Mr. Powell that he should be understood as not having been instrumental in Mr. Wood's appointment, could proceed from no other cause than a knowledge of some unfitness on