

came forward and applied for several lots, I think two for his father and two for himself, on which he paid the first instalment, and one of which he resold before leaving Mr. Clark's gate. While applying and paying for these lots I feel confident he never made a single allusion to lots 7 on the 8th Con. and 12 on the 7th Con., although he must have been aware that, from the way in which the sale was proceeding, they would be sold immediately to some one. When the proper time arrived I had an application filled up, and, in a voice loud enough to be heard by at least the fifty persons nearest to the table and the window, I said, "I apply, in the name of Allan McQueen for lots 7 on the 8th Con. and 12 on the 7th Con.; and if any one has a better claim, speak now." No one objected and the two lots were then and there entered in the same book in which all other sales of that and the preceding day had been entered. They were entered in the same way and by the same Clerk as all others had been entered, openly and in the presence of a crowd of witnesses. The parties at the window and around the table at the time, were of course, chiefly settlers in Grey. I cannot affirm that any of the Lamonts were present, because I would not have known them, but as many of their neighbors were present, I feel satisfied that Mr. Allan Lamont, in forty eight hours afterwards, must have been informed that the lots had been sold to me. And during the next four weeks, several of his neighbors were anxious to purchase them from me.

Hearing that the Lamonts were making considerable noise about losing their "improvements" on these lots, I sent, on the 27th of September, an intelligent and experienced friend to examine the lots and see what might be the value of the improvements, so that I might pay for them. His report was to the effect that, I need not give myself any uneasiness about the improvements, as he had traversed the two lots and could discover no other evidence of human labor than *part of a small shanty which had apparently been put together very recently, and perhaps subsequently to the sale.*

Sometimes, late in October or, perhaps early in November, Mr. Clark requested me to see him. I went to his office and he handed me a Petition or complaint of Mr. Allan Lamont, which had been sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands and returned to the "Local Agent" for explanation. In addition to a great deal about occupation and improvements, which I knew to

be far from truth, it accused me of having bought the lots for speculation, which I also knew to be false, and then it contained a correspondence between Mr. Allan Lamont and the Agent, and of which I was entirely ignorant. Mr. Clark then told me of the mistake he had made in telling Mr. Lamont that the lots were not sold, a full month after they had been entered in the Sales-Book to my son. He explained to me the manner or cause of this mistake—expressed his sincere regret, pointed out the ugly difficulty in which the error had involved him, and all but asked me to give up the lots. I at once recalled to his memory the open, fair, loud manner in which the lots had been purchased, assured him that the story of occupation and improvements was false, and added that if Mr. Lamont's sons had a right to buy and sell the public lands, surely my sons had a right to buy them for their own use. I know nothing of Mr. Clark's explanation to the Department but I presume it did not differ materially from what I have stated. I wrote a very civil letter to Mr. Allan Lamont, in which I told him the way I had got the lots, told him that I could not recognize any right in the claim which he set up, as his boys had never acquired a "right of pre-emption" as intended by the Crown Lands Department—pointed to the fact that had I not purchased them they would, of course, have been sold to some other person in ten minutes after, and assured him that I had no intention of selling them. I informed him that they were bought for my eldest son who intended to make his home on them, but as he did not wish to live on bad terms with his neighbors, he was willing to submit to the following arrangement: *namely. If he, Mr. Lamont, or his boys, would clear ten acres for Allan McQueen, on one of the lots, they should have the other with an instalment paid on it, and also have the first crop off the ten acres which they were to clear for Allan. Considering the price of chopping at that time, I had offered the lot at less than one-fourth of what they could have got for it, presuming they intended to sell, and I never presumed otherwise.*

To this letter I received no answer. The whole matter had been before the head of the Department for months, and no decision had been given. My son refused to go on the lots without a settlement, and after waiting till sometime in January 1854, I concluded to sell them and to purchase two others instead, in some other part of the township. Reselling was, by this time, as common as the sale

of the "good-will" had become of public sale. But I did not even look for a pure first offer, and that was a tradesman in Harpur to him in the early part the other was sold two weeks after. Both of have made considerable never had any information part of the Lamonts, utterly astonished to learn had been before the Commission.

I swear by Almighty God to the truth of the foregoing statements to the best of my knowledge.

[Signed] THOS. NI

Sworn before me in the County of Huron 1857.

THOS. NI
A Commissioner for ss

Now, Mr. Gowan, you receive a most important picture and your of the 25th Dec.—My statement of facts. I opened in gross misrep fabricated falsehoods plausibility that a pretellect is capable of spade a spade, and belied with my uncounted persuaded that even the justice of these facts you the "darn Number 8." My criterion at least as the "Commission" is concerning unfairly purchased two young men had been for two full years character, sir, result actual occupation have good reason to try to prove it if I purchased the L no Lamont had ever or spent ten hours on the lots. The lot same tenure, as the the adjoining to be strict of a br a "dwelling-h