

returned the first letter to Dr. Ford, after taking a copy of it. I frankly admit that in a confidential conversation with Mr. Robitaille, in my room, I stated that the matter looked very suspicious, as about that time several timber matters of the Messrs. Hamilton were up in the Department. Mr. Robitaille did not hesitate to say that the affair looked suspicious, and this at several times and on other matters, but always in strict confidence—which confidence the want of faith on Mr. Robitaille's part has now removed from me. The letter and the cheque I heard subsequently mentioned by at least two other gentlemen of the Department, not belonging to the Woods and Forests, as being rather suspicious.

If the remarks made by me at the time, in strict confidence, were more serious than similar remarks in other cases made among other employés of the Department, why were two years and four months allowed to elapse before bringing them to the notice of the Commissioner? I think I can explain this; but, before doing so, it is proper to remark that Mr. Cowper himself, in his own memorandum, hints rather broadly that the matter was open to suspicion, when he says, "What he, " Mr. Partridge, meant that the money was a consideration for, " I know not: I only know, and that very imperfectly, that " some matters of the Messrs. Hamilton were or had been " about that time under adjustment in some way." This coupling of the sum of money with the matters of the Messrs. Hamilton stated as under adjustment, and the peculiar reticence of his language, go to show that the suspicion was entertained by Mr. Cowper also.

A few days ago, Mr. Cowper was absent a day from the office, and when he came the following morning did not even condescend to state why he was absent. On being remonstrated with by me on this point (and it so happened I wanted him particularly the day he was absent), he assumed a blustering tone, and replied, that he had sickness in his family, and that I knew it. I told him he should not speak thus impertinently, as I thought he had had enough of that before;—that it was his duty, at least, to come to me in the morning and explain the cause of his absence the preceding day. Some months previously I had felt it my duty to report to the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Cowper's repeated absences, and his return to work without even condescending to mention his absence or explain it. This led to his being