

I obtained a detective policeman to watch him while I went to the Colonial Office.

As to what passed there, I may only now say, that the solicitor with whom I conferred, was, by professional habit and official discretion, reserved, and possibly sceptical. Lord Stanley, who had just then taken office as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and whom I did not see, in answer to my request to have it certified that I had no mercenary negotiations with the authorities, sent a courteous message, to the effect that he believed that I had spoken in perfect good faith and from a sense of honour in that affair, but that they attached to it but small importance.

I, however, attached such importance to it that I dared not take a passage, though it was paid for, to Australia, feeling assured that my life would not be worth many days' insurance after landing there. The objection to attach importance to the danger seemed to rest on the assumed absence of all agitation, or desire, or motive, among the gold-digging population for any revolutionary project. It was not for me to argue and contend that there were such desires and motives: the secrecy of the societies concealed their movements. But since then, as will presently appear, collateral proof has reached me, by way of the United States, that there was a movement for Australian "independence" in contemplation then.

A person who professed either more friendship than he could give effect to, or who used words to which he attached no meaning, seeing the condition, almost of mental paralysis, to which I was reduced by the infamous deception which had led me to sacrifice my home and all business relations, suggested that I should take my family to Canada. We came accordingly, sailing from Liverpool July 2nd, 1858; but I have not heard another word from him, directly or indirectly.

I now come to the second phase of that Australian conspiracy, so far as it relates to me and the ruin of my house and hopes.

" GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Toronto, 20th Dec. 1858.

" SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to transmit to you the annexed extract of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of a letter addressed by you to Sir E. B. Lytton on the 14th of October last.

" I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

" R. T. PENNEFIER.

" Mr. A. Somerville,  
Care of A. C. Buchanan, Esq.,  
Quebec."

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