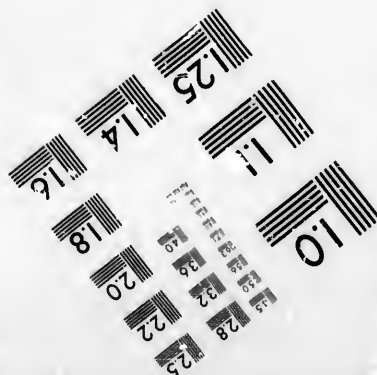
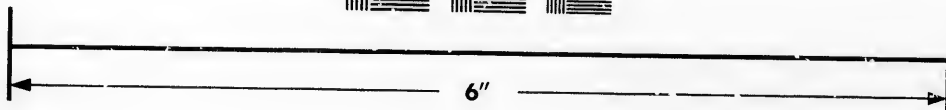
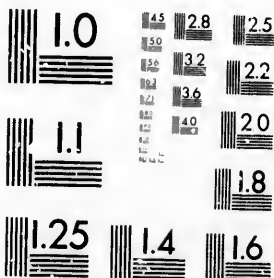


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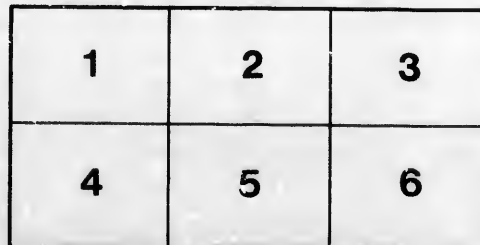
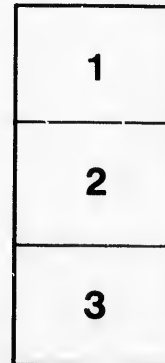
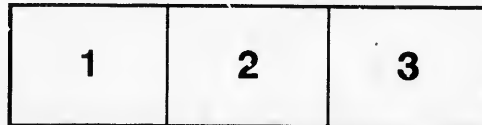
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WHICH SHALL WE BELIEVE :

THE LATE METROPOLITAN

OR THE

JUNIOR CANON AND SENIOR CURATE

OF

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL,

MONTREAL ?

A LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE REV. RURAL DEAN LONSDALL, BY
HON. JOHN HAMILTON, TOGETHER WITH A CORRESPONDENCE
BETWEEN MR. CHANCELLOR BETHUNE AND THE HON.
JOHN HAMILTON, ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

MONTREAL :

PRINTED BY THE MONTREAL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

1870.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SECOND VOLUME

1704

*Letter from the Hon. John Hamilton to the Rural Dean of
St. Andrews.*

TYRELLA HOUSE,

MONTREAL, 25th Jan., 1870.

To the Reverend R. LONSDALL,

Rural Dean,

DEANERY OF ST. ANDREWS, P. Q.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing the following letter to you, without having first obtained your consent. I do so, however, as you are the Rural Dean of the Deanery of which I have the honour to be one of the Lay representatives in the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal. I do so because of your long service in the Diocese, and I do so because you are an old friend of my own.

I should much rather that some other party had taken up the subject, to which this correspondence refers; but as no one has done so, and as I feel that it is extremely desirable, that the attention of the members of our communion, in the Diocese of Montreal, should be called to the points raised in it, I have felt it my duty to bring the subject under their notice in this way.

I remain, &c.,

Yours very truly,

JOHN HAMILTON.

*Letter from the Hon. John Hamilton to the Rural Dean of
St. Andrews.*

MONTREAL, 25th Jan., 1870.

Reverend R. LONSDALL,

Rural Dean,

ST. ANDREWS.

REVEREND SIR,—When I first read the account of the proceedings at the never-to-be-forgotten meeting of the vestry of

Christ Church Cathedral, held on the 6th December last, my first feeling was not one of astonishment, that as far as the majority of that vestry was concerned, the Rev. Canon Loosemore should have been dismissed from his position, but it was one of regret and amazement that our grave and sober Chancellor had attended such a meeting, and had not only done so, but had made a strongly partisan speech in favour of the Rev. Dr. Balch. This speech was all the more effective at the moment, coming as it did from one hitherto so much respected, and, besides that, the "Dean's son;" but that such a man should have forgotten the respect due to his position is, indeed, marvellous. I felt very much surprised at some of the statements he is reported to have then made, but more especially as regards the following, in which, speaking of Dr. Balch, he says:—"He had seen the "late Bishop's letters urging him to come here instead of "accepting the Bishopric of Nebraska, which Dr. Balch had "then the offer of, and about his acceptance of which Dr. Balch "had written to the Bishop."

Having frequently heard from private and personal friends of the late Bishop, that he had done nothing to induce Dr. Balch to come here, I naturally felt very much astonished at this, and on the first occasion that I had the pleasure of meeting the Chancellor, in the course of conversation I referred to his speech, and the result of our conversation is possibly more plainly than pleasantly described in the subjoined correspondence.

There is an old story told of a Mayor of Hull, who, on the occasion of a visit her Majesty paid to that ancient city, neglected to fire a Royal salute, and on being asked to account for his neglect, replied that he had nineteen reasons to give for it. The first being that he had no powder, the other eighteen were therefore dispensed with. So, though I have several parties to whom I might refer, to verify what I am about to write, yet, for the present, I shall only name one, and shall be surprised if he is not an authority as effective as was the reason of the absence of powder in the case of the salute:—

The Lord Bishop of Ontario has specially authorized me to

make the following statement, viz.: "That the late lamented Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, when on board the steamer going to England, to attend the Pan-Anglican Conference, told the Bishops of Ontario and Quebec, as well as an American Bishop (whose name I do not at this moment recall), that he had never anything to do with bringing Dr. Balch to Montreal, further than that he had not opposed the *scheme*."

This must, I think, be quite sufficient to satisfy all who respect our late Bishop's memory, that the Chancellor spoke "unadvisedly with his lips" at the meeting referred to, unless, indeed, he or his *guide, counsellor* and *friend*, produce letters in the late Bishop's *handwriting*, confirmatory of the Chancellor's statements; and this I feel satisfied they cannot do;—if they can, let them.

It may be asked, perhaps, why I assume, in my letter to Mr. Bethune, of the 22nd instant, that the Rev. Dr. Balch knew I would not "enter his house under any circumstances." In reply, I would say, that had any person told me that I had "stated the reverse of what was true, and that any sophistry of which I was capable, could not alter the facts," I certainly could not imagine that such a man would come under my roof, unless, indeed, he had apologized in the interval. Such, I imagine, were the sentiments of the Rev. Dr. Balch. He made a bold stroke of apparent readiness to meet me, provided he had the protection of his friend (the Chancellor) to shield him from my hands. But it is only fair to give the Reverend Doctor and his followers credit in this one respect at least, that they are consistent;—for since his advent amongst us, nothing that cool effrontery or intrigue has enabled them to demand or assert has ever been lost to them, trusting to that torpid slumber, in which, until quite recently, all matters appertaining to the Anglican communion in this Diocese were wrapt up. I feel conscious, however, that in taking the course I am now doing, I must be prepared to meet a perfect avalanche of abuse, to say nothing of all the "wise saws and modern instances" of which the members of the "Select Vestry"

of the "so-called Parish Church" (but really Cathedral) will be delivered at my expense. However, as my shoulders are broad, and my digestion good, I shall survive them much more readily than many other things I have encountered in the journey through life.

All those who recollect the Synod of November, 1868, and the adjourned Synod in May, 1869, will bear in mind the kind of consideration and fair play shown by the Reverend Doctor and his supporters in the selection of committees, and in everything that was done; but, after all, thank God, they were disappointed then; and though they have recently taken an apparently new lease of life, and succeeded in inducing Canon Loosmore to *resign* his position as senior curate in the Cathedral, yet they have done it at an expense that none but the most insensate among them ever could have contemplated, for they have driven from the Cathedral congregation, without remorse, some of its oldest and most respected members, as well as brought down on them the contempt of men of all churches and parties, outside, of course, of "their very Select Vestry."

Though, no doubt, the Bishopric of Nebraska was at the time the Chancellor refers to, a very remote and out-of-the-way portion of creation, yet now it certainly must be a position—looking at it in a mere worldly sense,—vastly superior to that of "Junior Canon" of our Cathedral and "Senior Curate" of the "Anglican Parish Church of our Cathedral of Montreal," as its Vestry apparently wish us to consider it, whether we will or not, and, seeing that a "Race for a Bishopric" is like other races—a very uncertain one—I fancy the Reverend Doctor must feel that he played away a chance in not taking the ball at the hop, and becoming Bishop of Nebraska, in place of vegetating in a position where, after all, his admirers are pretty much comprised within the limits of a very select vestry.

My letter has already stretched out to an unpardonable length. This has been, however, unavoidable. Repeating my challenge

to the Rev. Dr. Balch, and his faithful friend, the Chancellor, to produce the letters, I beg to subscribe myself,

My dear Mr. Lonsdell,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HAMILTON.

*Letter from Hon. John Hamilton to Strachan Bethune, Esq.,
Q.C., Chancellor of the Diocese of Montreal.*

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 15th Jan., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—A few days, or rather some two or three weeks, since, when we met at Judge McKay's at dinner, you promised to let me have the perusal of the three letters (so curiously found by Mrs. Balch), in which the late Metropolitan urged the Rev. Dr. Balch to come to Montreal to occupy the post he now holds in the Cathedral staff. In fact, if I did not misunderstand you, you stated, both at the Vestry meeting and to myself, that it was these letters which brought Dr. Balch here. I had hoped to have heard from you, in the interval, as to when I could see these letters, but suppose it has been overlooked in the press of business. Circumstances have lately, however, come to my knowledge which make me more than ever curious to see these letters. May I therefore remind you of your promise, and request its fulfilment at your earliest convenience. A reply will oblige.

Yours truly,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Strachan Bethune, Esq., to Hon. John Hamilton.

[Copy.]

MONTREAL, 17th Jan., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am this moment only in receipt of yours of the 15th inst. You misunderstood what I really said. I

certainly never intended to *promise* to let you have the perusal of the late Bishop Fulford's letters to Dr. Balch on the subject of his removal to Montreal, as the letters were not in my possession. What I thought I said, and what I really intended to say, was that I had no doubt, if you wished to see the letters, that I could secure you a perusal of them. As you did not ask me (so far as I understood) to try and arrange for your seeing them, I of course naturally dismissed the matter from my mind. I shall now, however, endeavour to have your curiosity gratified.

Yours truly,

STRACHAN BETHUNE.

Hon. JOHN HAMILTON,
Tyrella House, Montreal.

From the same to the same.

[*Copy.*]

17th January, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you this morning (through the post), I have received the enclosed from Dr. Balch, which I send by a messenger. I shall of course be in attendance at the time and place named.

Yours truly,

STRACHAN BETHUNE.

Hon. JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from Rev. Canon Balch to Strachan Bethune, Esq.

[*Copy.*]

MONTREAL, Jan. 17th, 1870.

DEAR MR. BETHUNE,—I have just received your note of this morning, enclosing one from the Hon. John Hamilton. Were it not for my personal regard for you, I should repel the base insinuation contained in Mr. Hamilton's letter by refusing him any communication whatever of the letters he affects to be so

curious of seeing, but as I cannot allow you to be placed in a false position, I have to state that Mr. Hamilton can see the letters (provided you are present) at my house, at half-past nine to-morrow morning.

Very sincerely yours,

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Hon. John Hamilton to Strachan Bethune, Esq.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 17th Jan., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am just in receipt of your second note of this day's date; the first, however, through some inadvertence in the Post-Office, has not reached me.

Though desirous of ocular demonstration of *the asserted fact* that the late Bishop of Montreal invited Dr. Balch to come to the Cathedral, yet if I cannot be gratified without undergoing the *nuisance* of an interview with the Rev. Dr. Balch, I must forego the wished-for proof.

If you, however, will kindly inspect the letters, and give me the extracts bearing upon the subject, it will answer my purpose. I may add that I would not thus trouble you were it not that I have it on the authority of *several* gentlemen of undoubted respectability that the late Metropolitan most positively assured them that he never had anything to do with bringing the Rev. Dr. Balch to Montreal, further than that he had not opposed the *scheme*.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

From the same to the same.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 22nd Jan., 1870.

DEAR SIR,—Herewith find copy of a letter which I addressed to you last Monday, and which my servant left at your residence that evening, but to which you have not yet deigned the courtesy of a reply. I am, therefore, compelled to ask whether you intend to comply with the request made in it or not? For in any case you must see that the question referred to can scarcely be left where it is, touching as it does the personal honor and veracity of the late Metropolitan, as well as that of others.

It seems to me that had *your friend*, the Rev. Dr. Balch, been *really desirous that you should not be placed in a false position*, he would have named a place of meeting other than his own house, which he knew perfectly well I would not enter under any circumstances, and where, too, he so *blandly* insinuates that your presence was absolutely necessary for his protection.

Waiting your reply,

I am, yours faithfully,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Strachan Bethune, Esq., to Hon. John Hamilton.

[Copy.]

MONTREAL, 22nd Jan., 1870.

DEAR SIR,—When your servant left the note of the 17th inst., and asked for an answer, I said, "Say there is no answer." I presumed you would understand by that, that I did not intend to request Dr. Balch's permission, under the circumstances, to make the extracts you desired from the letters in question. As you seem, however, not so to have understood the matter, I write to say, that it was quite impossible for me, in view of the

terms of your note, to ask any such favor as you sought, and that the threat, in your note of the 22nd inst., just received, as to my own position, prohibits my entertaining your project for a single moment.

I am, yours faithfully,

STRACHAN BETHUNE.

Hon. JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from Hon. John Hamilton to S. Bethune, Esq.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 24th Jan., 1870.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 22nd, permit me to say, that, having no expectation, or desire either, for an immediate reply to mine of the 17th inst., I did not direct my servant to ask for one, nor did he give me your message.

Not being gifted with that profound legal acumen, for which Pennsylvania lawyers get the credit of being famous, I entirely fail to see *when* or *where* I have ever asked you to obtain any favour for me, at the hands of the Rev. Dr. Balch. I certainly suggested to you, as politely as I could, a method in which you might fulfil a promise you *voluntarily made*. In the following words, taken from your own letter, you say: "You had no doubt, if I wished to see the letters, you could secure me the perusal of them," to which, though you seem to forget it, I replied: "I would very much like to see them."

It might have been as well, before you remarked on my style of writing, had you recalled to mind that of your reverend friend, the Doctor, who, in a letter to you, which you were injudicious enough to enclose to me, thus *pleasantly* expresses himself:—"Were it not for my personal regard for you, I should repel the *base insinuation* contained in Mr. Hamilton's letter, by refusing him any communication whatever of the letters he affects to be "so desirous of seeing." As regards any threat, as far as you are concerned, I am wholly unconscious of having made any;

my worst opinion, as far as you are concerned, might be expressed pretty much as follows:—That you had, perhaps, willingly allowed yourself to be misled into believing that such letters really existed: or supposing them to exist, in any shape, they can only bear the interpretation you put upon them in your speech at the Vestry Meeting, after the skilful manipulation of one more astute than yourself.

As you, however, decline to entertain the project you say I made, even for a single moment, I shall now endeavour to arraign you and your Reverend friend at the Bar of Public Opinion, where, very possibly, these wonderful letters will be produced; and if they do not justify all you have said of them, then I pity you.

I am, faithfully yours,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.



