

(No. 154.)



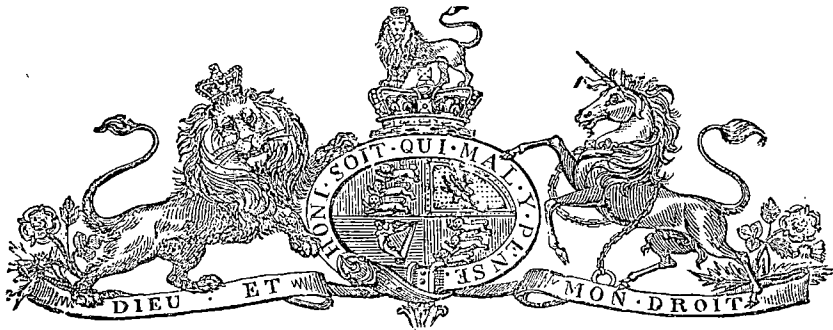
1861.

T A S M A N I A.

GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

RETURN TO AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE. (*Mr. Balfe, 23 Jan. 1862.*)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,
30 January, 1862.



14, *New Broad-street, London, E.C.*,
12 *November, 1861.*

SIR,

1. I WAS in hopes that the correspondence relating to my Department had come to an end ; but, conscious of having acted with uprightness of intention and singleness of purpose, I cannot allow any personal reflection, made officially, to pass unexplained and unanswered. I have therefore now to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 22nd August, and to notice *seriatim* the "inaccuracies and omissions" to which you advert ; confining my replies, however, to the particular issues now raised, and strictly excluding settled, or unimportant, points.

2. The first point for notice, is your allegation that my letter of Nov. 3 (marked A) was not withdrawn at *your* instance, but at *mine*. Although I apprehend that this is an immaterial issue, still, as determining a question of "accuracy," it cannot be deemed of unimportance ; and, as I have in vain challenged my memory for any doubt of the fact asserted, I must beg you to excuse my suggesting reasons why my assertion could scarcely be incorrect. In the first place, I had no possible motive for recalling that letter, as my object in writing it thus early was at once to elicit the pleasure of the Government upon my application for "leave," to enable me to set about my preparations, and also to submit the arrangements which seemed to me best adapted for the temporary working of my Department. You may recollect objecting that my letter (marked A) did not mention any specific time for leaving, which you pointed out as being essential ; and I think you will also remember telling me "not to mix up the arrangements for the Office in the letter applying for leave"—expressing your desire, at the same time, that I should defer my application until the date of departure could be fixed. Hence I took back with me, at that interview, my letter of November 3,—withdrawing it, as I conceived, and as I recorded at the time, "at your instance."

And here arose, as I now perceive, an evident misunderstanding ; for while *I* understood you that the two parts of my letter should be separated, and each form the subject of a distinct communication, *you*, on the other hand, seem to have meant that I should simply ask for leave of absence, and be silent as to the contemplated arrangements. Hence it was that, at our interview on the 14th January, you alleged that I had misconceived your directions in resubmitting my recommendations, instead of leaving the appointments to be initiated by the Executive, and requested me to withdraw the letter marked B, which I accordingly did ; and hence also it was that I both *felt* and *expressed* surprise, as intimated in my letter of June, 1861.

3. I now come to your "complaint, that I gave assurances to Mr. Robarts *in your name* which you never authorised." Had this been so, I should indeed have been most culpable ; but I deny most emphatically making any positive statement whatsoever in your name. It is utterly untrue that I stated that you had "pledged" yourself to anything. I repeat that no such word as "pledge," or to that effect, ever passed my lips. The only assurances that I gave to Mr. Robarts were those of my own convictions, but nothing more,—founded, of course, upon what had passed between you and myself on the proposed arrangements, as already explained. Most distinctly did I tell Mr. Robarts that I firmly believed he would be appointed ; but with no less distinctness did I tell him,

not only that I was not authorised by the Colonial Treasurer to say anything, but that the Government expressly reserved making all arrangements to itself.

4. As to the amount of salary to be paid to him as Acting Government Printer, Mr. Robarts knew from me nothing more than that I had, in conformity with established regulation, recommended in my letters that he should be paid half the salary of each situation. Mr. Robarts has no ground whatever for saying that the amount of salary was ever named by me to him "upon your authority," or otherwise than as I have stated. I need scarcely say that it formed no subject of discussion between you and myself at any time.

5. I refrain, in this communication, from touching upon the *House Allowance*, fully coinciding, under all the circumstances, in the opinion which you express, that I had better defer entering upon that subject until after my return to the Colony.

6. In conclusion, I have to express my gratification that, after all, Mr. Robarts has much less to complain of than originally appeared to be the case; for whereas Mr. Robarts, in a letter to me dated 20 February, 1861, stated that "Mr. Henry Best has been appointed Acting Government Printer during your absence," I now learn from you that Mr. Robarts has *not* been placed in a position subordinate to Mr. Best, nor has he suffered any prejudice to his claims to promotion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. BARNARD.

The Hon. F. M. INNES, Esq., Colonial Treasurer.