

Now, Mr. Hunt has thought it a fair and proper thing not even to hint that I disavowed all knowledge of the issue of the letter of Dec. 16, 1867; that I had said I had no authority to issue it. He was not ignorant of the facts which were put before the public. Ay, more than this; he knew what the public did not know,—that I had pressed this case further than his sense of justice was willing to accede. And now that he has by withholding important facts respecting this letter, wrongfully sought to make me responsible in part for his violations of law, I deem myself justified in giving publicity to the following correspondence which, under other circumstances, I would gladly have kept from public view.—

To the Hon. W. B. VAIL, Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—I sought permission from the Superintendent of Education, this morning to inspect a letter, over my name, addressed to Mr. Willis on Dec. 16, 1867, and also the letter-book containing copies of letters of 1866. The Superintendent positively refused to grant my courteous and just request. I therefore ask that you will grant what Mr. Hunt has refused. It has occurred to me—and I said so to Mr. Hunt—that the date of the letter referred to has been changed. I ask that you will direct the papers to be shewn me, (say) this afternoon, in the presence of Mr. J. S. Maclean and Mr. J. B. Morrow or Hon. Dr. Parker.

Very sincerely yours, T. H. RAND.

Jan. 20th, 1871.

HALIFAX, 20th Jan., 1871.

Sir,—In reply to your note of to-day, asking permission to examine books and papers in the Education Office, I would suggest, as the Legislature will meet on the 2nd prox., that you request Dr. Parker or some other member to ask for the papers you require, when I have no doubt the Government will be very happy to lay them on the table.

I am, Your ob't. servant, W. B. VAIL.

HALIFAX, Jan. 21, 1871.

To the Hon. W. B. VAIL, Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—Respecting the suggestion contained in your letter of yesterday, let me say that I have no wish to import into the Legislature so simple a matter, and one requiring but a ten-minutes' visit to the Education Office to dispose of. In fact so far as the letter purporting to be addressed to Mr. Willis under date of Dec. 16, 1867 is concerned, there is, as you are well aware, no official record either in the Education Office or in the School Commissioners' Office of the issue of any such letter by me. It comes under cognizance simply from the fact that the editor of the Morning Chronicle, receiving it from the Superintendent of Education, has published it, and challenged me for an explanation of its date. In seeking for a complete explanation, I have been refused by the Superintendent, a second inspection of the paper, and a reference to the letter book of 1866. The paper, as you must know, is not officially in the custody of the Education Department nor even of the Government, and could not, therefore, properly be remanded by a member of the Legislature to the table of the House. I appealed to you in the hope if no higher consideration prevailed at least that of the official position which I held for years in connexion with Education in my native Province would induce you to exert the influence of your high position in promptly securing for me courteous and honorable dealing at the hands of the present Superintendent of Education. So far as he letter-book is concerned, I merely wished to see if there is any copy of a letter to Mr. Willis, of Dec. 16, 1866. The character and standing of the gentlemen in whose presence I asked to be allowed to inspect the letter and letter-book furnished an adequate guarantee both to the Superintendent and yourself that the papers would be handled and inspected in good faith.

Sincerely yours, T. H. RAND.

HALIFAX, 21st Jan. 1871.

Dear Sir,—Previous to the receipt of your note of to-day, I saw your friend Mr. J. S. McLean and informed him, if he would call at my office either Monday or Tuesday next, I would be most happy to shew him your letter to Mr. Willis and allow him to examine the letter book of 1866, and also afford him every opportunity to satisfy himself and your other friends as to whether the letter referred to is in the hand writing of the then superintendent or not, and the probability of its having been written in 1866.

Permit me to call your particular attention to the letter of the 16th Dec., and if after a careful examination of it you can explain, even to your own satisfaction how a letter written in 1866 could refer to a statute passed in 1867, I may then be able to put before you some corroborative testimony to prove that the letter under date of Dec. 16th was written in 1867.

I am sorry to be under the necessity of refusing you the perusal of letters in the Education office, but you can hardly expect to be allowed free access to the books and papers in any of the offices under Government control in order to obtain material for newspaper attacks on the Council of Public Instruction or the Education Department.

I am, yours truly, W. B. VAIL.

T. H. Rand, Esq.

HALIFAX, 23rd Jan., 1871.

Sir,—If you will call at this office at 11 o'clock to-morrow with your friend J. S. McLean I will afford you an opportunity of examining the letters of the 16th Dec., 1867 and the letter book of 1866.

I am your ob't. servant, W. B. VAIL.

T. H. Rand, Esq.

HALIFAX, 23rd Jan., 1871.

Sir,—I have read the statement of Mr. Hunt's Clerk with astonishment even exceeding that with which I recall, in the light of this discussion, Mr. Tatnell's letter in your issue of May 10th. I have shewn it to W. Ackhurst, Esq., a gentleman whose word is as gold, and whose independence, integrity, and christian character, have been well known in this community for upwards of 20 years. Here is what he declares:—

I am shocked that Rev. Mr. Hunt should publish the statement of his clerk, Capt.

HALIFAX, Jan. 23, 1871.

To the Hon. W. B. VAIL, Provincial Secretary.

Sir,—Allow me to say in reply to your letter of Saturday evening that I did not request permission for Mr. McLean or any other friend to see the 'paper' and refer to a 'letter-book,' but that I myself might inspect these in the presence of two or three gentlemen. The gentlemen named were willing to accompany me if you should demand any guarantee. In repeating your refusal you have deemed it necessary to use the following language: "You can hardly expect to be allowed free access to the books and papers in any of the offices under Government control in order to obtain material for newspaper attacks on the Council of Public Instruction or the Education Department."

I regret exceedingly to learn that the character of any of the materials in the offices under Government control is such as to be suitable for attacks on the Council or Education Department; but you know that I have never sought free access to books and papers. I asked to see a specific paper and make a specific reference to a letter book. You know that I have never sought information from any Government Office except the Educational Office. You know that I have never sought or obtained an iota of information from that office for the purpose of making attacks on the Department or the Council. And permit me to say that you have no right gratuitously to impute to me the motives which actuate dishonorable men, that you may seem to justify your refusal of my request.

The Superintendent of Education with your consent, I presume, privately shews about the Province an order of Council which has been null and void for years, and tells men of standing that this order was passed on my recommendation and was operative when I was dismissed from office. And you wish me to understand that you think it a proper thing to deny me the right of going to the Education Office and asking to see such order, because to do so would result in correcting an official blunder and render it impossible for the Superintendent longer to disseminate a misstatement? The Superintendent of Education so far forgets what is due to his position and the cause he represents, as to furnish a political journal under my hand in order that he may—do what? further the cause he is set by law to promote? No, but avowedly with no better object than to injure the reputation of his predecessor in office. And you wish me to believe that you think it incompatible with the interests of the Government that I should have the opportunity of satisfying myself of the actual character of this document? Do you mean, in short, for me to infer that courtesy, and honorable dealing, and truth itself, are discarded by the Government in matters of this sort? I cannot think you mean just this, but your act and language under the circumstances seem incapable of bearing any other meaning.

I do not know to what you allude in the letter of Dec. 16, as referring to an act of 1867, unless it is the word "deputy examiner." This expression was, I think, often applied by me previous to 1867 when referring to the inspector acting in such a capacity. I shall, therefore, avail myself of the opportunity of seeing any "corroborative testimony" you may be able to shew me.

I am, sincerely yours, T. H. RAND.

HALIFAX, 23rd Jan., 1871.

Sir,—If you will call at this office at 11 o'clock to-morrow with your friend J. S. McLean I will afford you an opportunity of examining the letters of the 16th Dec., 1867 and the letter book of 1866.

I am your ob't. servant, W. B. VAIL.

T. H. Rand, Esq.

The heading of the letter was in the usual form, the figures of the year 186—being printed. I could detect nothing wrong with the written 7, nor was there any copy in the letter-book for Dec. 1866. It struck me as remarkable that, the "Corroborative testimony" bore date on the very same day as the letter purporting to have been issued by me. Mr. Hunt positively assured me, in the presence of Mr. Vail and Mr. McLean, that he knew it to be the original letter sent to the Inspector, and not a copy, of the letter. My almost invariable practice was to forward letters to the Secretary of the Halifax School Commissioners through the Post Office. Letters, unless requiring despatch, were posted in the evening.

HALIFAX, Feb. 6th, 1871.

To the Hon. The PROV. SECRETARY.

Sir,—On the 24th ult., Mr. Hunt and you shewed me in the presence of Mr. J. S. Maclean what purported to be an original letter written by Rev. Dr. Hannan, under date of Dec. 16, 1867, to the late Inspector of Schools for this County, and which appeared to refer to some communication from myself as Superintendent of Education respecting the examination and payment of the Sisters of Charity.

You will remember that I expressed a desire that you would give me an assurance that the letter shewn me had really been procured from the Inspector's Office.

You declined to do so, saying that it was my business to write to the Inspector, not yours.

I at once addressed the following letter to Mr. Parsons, into whose custody all papers belonging to the office of the Inspector officially came on his appointment to office in 1868:—

HALIFAX, Jan. 24th, 1871.

J. F. PARSONS, Esq., Inspector of Schools, for the Co. of Halifax.

Dear Sir,—Will you have the goodness to inform me whether you have delivered to Rev. Mr. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, or to any other person a letter addressed to the late Inspector, Mr. J. R. Miller, by the Rev. Dr. Hannan under date of Dec. 16, 1867, referring to the examination of the sisters of charity and my refusal to pay the Board Provincial aid for their services until they were licensed? or is there such a letter on file in the Inspector's Office? or have you any knowledge of such a letter having ever been in the Office?

Sincerely yours, T. H. RAND.

The following is the reply: HALIFAX, Jan. 28th, 1871.

T. H. RAND, Esq., M. A.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 24th Inst., I beg to state that I have not delivered such a letter as you describe, to Rev. Mr. Hunt or to any other person. There is not, nor has there ever been to my knowledge any letter upon that subject in the Inspector's Office.

Yours truly, J. PARSONS.

I am, yours sincerely, T. H. RAND.

I also addressed the following note to Mr. Parsons' predecessor in office:—

HALIFAX, Jan. 24, 1871.

Dear Sir,—It has been alleged by the present Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia that subsequent to the operation of the Act of 1867, I gave permission for the Sisters of Charity in Halifax to work their papers privately at home. I forward a couple of newspapers containing a discussion on this subject. To-day the Supt. of Education shewed me a letter (an original letter, not a copy) purporting to be addressed to you as Inspector of Schools by Rev. Dr. Hannan under date of Dec. 16, 1867, apparently referring to such a permission. This, you will observe, was two months after the first Examination under the new Law of 1867. Will you kindly inform me if you have any knowledge of having received such a letter, or of having returned it to Dr. Hannan?

Yours sincerely, T. H. RAND.

Mr. J. R. MILLER, Dalhousie, N. B.

DALHOUSIE, N. B., Jan. 30, 1871.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your note of 24th inst., I beg to inform you that I have not the slightest recollection of receiving from very Rev. Dr. Hannan any communication dated Dec. 16, 1867 on the subject to which you refer, viz., permission to the Sisters of Charity to work their examination papers at home. Such permission was given about two years before that time.

Yours faithfully, J. R. MILLER.

T. H. RAND, Esq., A. M.

Faithfully Yours, T. H. RAND.

For the Christian Messenger.

LETTER FROM REV. A. S. HUNT.

DARTMOUTH, June 3rd, 1871.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger,

DEAR SIR,—I have read over the letter from Mr. Rand of the 29th ult. The evidence therein adduced fails to shake my statement, or the truth of Mr. Torrie's affidavit in the slightest degree. The "evidence" consists of impressions received by Mr. Rand at different times, and every word may be true, and nevertheless Mr. Rand's positive assertion that he left in my "custody all the examination papers that had ever passed under the hands of the Provincial Examiners," not be established. Under date of the 13th March last, Mr. Rand wrote to Dr. Parker, "That a portion of them," (the examination papers) were deposited for want of room in the office in the attic of the building, "while the inference he evidently wishes to be deduced from the statements in the letters of my last," that the files which contained the original papers at the time of my induction, and that I was therefore responsible for them; and it is not until his last letter, and after his own positive and unqualified assertion, "that he left all the papers in my possession, &c.," that he acknowledges "that he had removed the papers of the earlier examinations from the office below, and deposited them up stairs in the custody of the Librarian—Mr. Venables"—this tardy statement would appear to have been compelled, as the only means of accounting for the "bundles that were mixed through the great mass of promiscuous papers on the floor in the Record Office."

Mr. Rand never hinted to me that these papers were in the attic, and had to be cared for; and I never was informed of the fact; and yet he dares to charge me with untruth; because I denied his statement that "he left all the papers in my possession." His statement that he left them "in the custody of Mr. Venables" is I am informed not correct.

Mr. Rand must not endeavour to weaken the force of Mr. Torrie's affidavit; by aspersing his character; at least until he has some testimony other than his own "ipse dixit," that "he was the worse of liquor one afternoon," and that "the poor fellow knew he was guilty of falsehoods and could not long bear to be questioned." I am not aware of Mr. Torrie's private habits, but I would remind Mr. Rand that while sobriety is without doubt a cardinal virtue

—it is by no means the only one. I append a short statement from Capt. Tatnell who was by my request, present at the conference, with Mr. Torrie—from which you will see that his statements were "not contradictory" and also an affidavit from Mr. Palmer in corroboration of Mr. Torrie's statement as far as he had cognizance of the same.—This matter has now dwindled into a private controversy that can possess but little interest to the Public—and it is not likely that I shall again trouble you on the subject, unless indeed Mr. Rand should hereafter find himself able to redeem his pledge and by "evidence place the truth of his statement beyond the possibility of doubt."

I am, yours truly, A. S. HUNT.

CAPT. TATNELL'S STATEMENT.

By the request of the Rev. Mr. Hunt I was present when Messrs. Rand and Ackhurst met Mr. Torrie in the Education Office. Mr. Rand questioned and cross-questioned, Torrie, but failed to get any reply at all contradictory of the statements in his affidavit. He stated that the examination papers he took into the cellar of the Building—had been previously thrown out of the office into the corridor—that he sometimes took some of the papers to his lodgings and arranged them for sale—that he could not be positive of the character of the envelopes, nor of the dates of removal of the papers; but persisted in his positive assertion that it was during the time that Mr. Rand filled the office of Superintendent of Education. After some time Mr. Torrie said that he was unwell, and started to leave the office stating that he had told all he knew. Mr. Rand demanded that Mr. Hunt should use his official authority to compel Mr. Torrie to return and reply to further questions. Mr. Hunt said that he had already requested Mr. Torrie to return, and could hardly be expected to use physical force to compel him back. To Mr. Rand's enquiry, whether Mr. Hunt had not some of the examination papers at his own house in Dartmouth, the latter replied "that he had taken some home occasionally to work out the results for transmission to the candidates; that most of these had been returned to the Education Office." Mr. Rand then requested permission to search Mr. H.'s house in company with Mr. Ackhurst for examination papers, this Mr. H. declined, but stated that he would send any that might be found to the office for Mr. R.'s examination, if he wished.—Mr. Rand then asked, "If the examination papers had not been used to light the fire; to which Mr. Hunt replied that a few stray ones might have been so used, but he could not positively say; but that at all events none had been destroyed anywhere until after the licenses had been issued to the candidates—some three or four months after the examinations. Mr. Rand next enquired if Mr. Torrie had not made an affidavit. Mr. H. answered, "Yes." Mr. Rand asked what the affidavit contained. Mr. Hunt asked "Have you not seen it?" Mr. Rand replied, "Yes" upon which Mr. H. remarked, "Why then do you wish me to repeat the contents?" To this question Mr. Rand made no reply, but leaning forward towards Mr. Hunt, and shaking his finger at him he remarked.—"Mr. Hunt, if you publish that affidavit I will hold you responsible." Mr. Rand and Mr. Hunt then rose from their seats when Mr. Hunt remarked, "Mr. Rand I have answered your questions, let me ask one. Did you not know that the examination papers were removed from this office, and disposed of before my appointment, and while you were Superintendent of Education?" To this question no reply was given by Mr. Rand, although Mr. Hunt repeated it thrice.—Mr. Rand and Mr. Ackhurst then left—the former remarking, "I have taken legal advice and if Mr. Hunt publishes that affidavit I will hold him liable."

Yours very truly, S. SELDEN.

The following are the rejoinders: From Rev. A. S. HUNT.

HALIFAX, 5th June, 1871.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—The lateness of the receipt of yours of the 5th inst., covering a copy of Mr. Rand's letter under date of the 31st ult., and the shortness of the time, at my disposal for reply, precludes any extended notice, but happily, such is not required. The various letters therein set forth throw no new light on the subject. The first step required to be taken by Mr. Rand is to shew that the Minute of 1834, is obsolete—and was rendered effete and illegal by the Act of 1867. The onus of this is upon him, he must also shew that it is necessary in order to "issue the uniform classification and licensing of teachers" that the "conscientious or religious scruples" of the candidates be ignored and disregarded.

Mr. Rand's letter of 16th Dec. 1867 was handed to me as an official document by the Chairman of the Committee of Teachers and was received by him; I am authorized to state—from Mr. Willis himself—and the Christian Brothers and Sisters claimed the privilege accorded to them by the letter, which, as at present advised, neither I nor any one else had the right to refuse; either to the Christian Brother, or Sisters; or any other candidates having "conscientious scruples &c.," and if Mr. Rand since the date of that letter has changed his opinion and now deems it impossible to "devise" a means by which those having conscientious and religious scruples, &c.," can be examined without doing violence to their principles, I surely am not responsible; nor can he blame me if I followed the practice indicated by him as my predecessor. Mr. Rand did write the letter; and I scarce think that it will be accepted as an excuse that he did so "inadvertently" especially in view of the fact, that he allowed the "Minute" to remain unrepaled in the "Minute Book" and forbore to communicate to the Public through the Educational Journal, that the Minute itself had become "obsolete." I have not time to see Mr. Willis or Mr. Roussele to day, in reference to the statements Mr. Rand alleges they made to him. I fail to see how they, if true, bear upon the question, or afford Mr. Rand any loop-hole of escape from the dilemma in which he has plunged himself. I have reason to believe however, that that statement must be received, subject to the allowances obliged to be made in regard to other of Mr. Rand's assertions.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, A. S. HUNT.

From T. H. RAND, Esq.

HALIFAX, June 5th, 1871.

Dear Sir,—If Rev. Mr. Hunt, Superintendent of Education, cannot discover that the statements which he authorized the Provincial Secretary to make in Parliament, and has since himself made in your columns, and got the messenger of his office to swear to, are "shaken in the slightest degree," it is not creditable to his intelligence. The array of cumulative evidence derived from testimony the most independent and varied, has not failed, I venture to affirm, to bring conviction to the public mind that Mr. Hunt's statements respecting my official acts in question, are wholly untrue.

I shall not follow Mr. Hunt through all his solemn trifling. Despite the taunts of Mr. Vail and Mr. Wilkins in the House, and the assertions and affidavits published by Mr. Hunt, I have not swerved an iota from the truth as given in my note of the 13th of March last to Hon. Dr. Parker. The room in the attic of the Province Building is in the custody of Mr. Venables, but the examination papers deposited there belonged to the Education Department. These, as well as the papers in the rooms of the Education Office proper were in the custody of the department, and were subject to the orders of the Superintendent. Why trifle with a matter so plain? So, too, when I said that "I left in the custody of my successor all the examination papers," Mr. Hunt surely did not understand me to say that I actually took up the papers and put them into his hands. When I vacated the office of Provincial Superintendent, which I had the honor of filling for nearly six years, I transferred not only my chair and desk and the papers which were in the rooms of the Education Office proper, but I transferred everything pertaining to the Education Department of the Province (including many grave and weighty responsibilities), to my successor. I did not see Mr. Hunt at all, for I had to do with the Government and not with him. But Mr. Macvane, who remained in the office as Clerk, and whose statement Mr. Hunt has ventured to adduce in this discussion, knew well that a portion of the papers had been placed in the upper room. What object has Mr. Hunt in resorting to desperate expedients to misrepresent my acts, if it be not to find a shelter for himself? I think I have a right to say to Mr. Hunt, Stand squarely in your own shoes, and assume like a man the full responsibility of your own acts.

I have read the statement of Mr. Hunt's Clerk with astonishment even exceeding that with which I recall, in the light of this discussion, Mr. Tatnell's letter in your issue of May 10th. I have shewn it to W. Ackhurst, Esq., a gentleman whose word is as gold, and whose independence, integrity, and christian character, have been well known in this community for upwards of 20 years. Here is what he declares:—

I am shocked that Rev. Mr. Hunt should publish the statement of his clerk, Capt.

Attnell. I find it important to say in reply to the examining some home suits or torn that most of Education was used by Mr. Rand Hunt's hot papers which house, and he had used they lay in a ing about that "a burned." The state affidavit of Rand asked Mr. Hunt Mr. Rand Mr. Rand ask me, have it from swered. Mr. Rand the fearful man's affidavit back here you that I wholly impossible for possible for upon oath.

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