

in any way. We finally agreed upon the Speech and Answer. During all these discussions I communicated to my colleagues, as I always did, everything that passed between us.

Two or three days before the Legislature met I was at Government House, in the afternoon, and His Excellency said that I would meet Mr. Mitchell at dinner that evening. I had previously been invited. I thought this somewhat strange, and my suspicions were aroused that he had sent for him, and I mentioned the fact to my colleagues, who participated in my suspicions and seemed much annoyed that such a thing should take place. I met Mr. Mitchell that evening at dinner. I had no conversation with him on the subject of Union; but I soon discovered that His Excellency was in constant communication with that gentleman, and my colleagues and myself talked much of this matter and were much annoyed, and I from the first told His Excellency that this was not right, and I objected to it. On one or two occasions he suggested that we had better have some conversation with members of the opposition. I at once protested against this, and said that we would have nothing to do with the opposition, that whatever was done would be done with the consent and acquiescence of our friends, and without the aid of the opposition. That their great object was to upset us, as has been plainly shown ever since the opening of the Session, and we had felt during the whole of the debate on the vote of want of confidence, the disadvantage of having the secrets of Council communicated to the opposition, and I told His Excellency so time and time again, that his course was unfair and unjust.

His Excellency states that I said that the Report of the Committee might lead to an Address to Her Majesty to pass an Imperial Act for Union. This is just the opposite of the fact. He remarked that it might lead to such an Address. I have told him almost times without number that I would never consent to any such proceeding; and after it was rumoured, some ten or twelve days ago, that Nova Scotia was about to adopt that course, I spoke to His Excellency in terms of condemnation of such proceeding, and stated that I did not believe it possible that they would so act, that it would be an outrage upon the people. I have stated to him repeatedly that I would go for no Scheme of Union until I knew what its terms were. I have stated in the House several times during the debate, that the Government did not intend to propose any Scheme of Union, and this His Excellency has well known, and never expressed the slightest dissatisfaction. The whole matter was well understood by our supporters in the House. I had told them what we intended to do, viz., to have a Committee appointed. I have been very much dissatisfied with the way His Excellency has been acting, particularly for the last fortnight. In my interviews with him he seemed inclined to make trouble, and I felt he was under the influence of and acting with the opposition. He complained that the debate lasted so long, and that he was informed that the Government were purposely delaying it. I told him that this was utterly untrue, and the opposition had told him so to injure us. He, during this time, said to me, that he was not satisfied with the arrangement about the appointment of the Committee, that he had no assurance as to what the Committee would report. I told him that the Committee would report what they thought right, and he talked about the gentlemen who would compose the Committee. I always insisted that a majority should consist of our friends, and I told him repeatedly that we were prepared to carry out in good faith the arrangements that we had made, and that I insisted upon his doing the same.

In our conversation on Saturday last, I charged him with violating the agreement. He said that circumstances had changed. I replied that no circumstances had arisen to justify a departure from it. He said that he did not know at the time that the Legislative Council would take the course they did. I said we could not control the Legislative Council, that their proceedings were most extraordinary, and I was satisfied the people would not approve of them. In the course of the conversation he coolly remarked, "You had better give up and let me form a new Government, and pass it, and get it out of the way." I replied, no, Your Excellency, while I would rejoice to get rid of my office, we have our friends and the country behind, and we will not forsake them, and we never will surrender the seals of

office to the other party so long as we can honorably hold them. I did not know the fact at the time, but have ascertained it since, that he had sent for Mr. Straton, the Clerk of the Executive Council, to swear in a new Government or some members of it, and Mr. Straton was at Government House at the time. His Excellency, I think, on the 7th March, on one occasion, when I was at Government House, handed me the letter he referred to; I read it, and then stated to him that I did not want such a letter, and declined to receive it, and handed it back to him.

Some time afterwards, about a fortnight or three weeks ago, Mr. Odell and I were at Government House, and as I was in the Hall coming away, he came to the door of one of the ante-rooms and said, here is a letter for you. I took it, not knowing what it was, for if I had I should have declined to receive it as I did the former one, and Mr. Odell and I left. After we got into the carriage, I broke the seal and read it aloud. I was much dissatisfied, and so expressed myself to Mr. Odell. I felt that he wanted to get me into a false position. We drove down to the Council Chamber, where our colleagues were. I read it to them, and expressed myself in terms of disapprobation, and asked my colleagues what was best to do with it—that I thought of returning it. I concluded, however, not to answer or notice it, and I never directly or indirectly, either in writing or verbally, referred to the letter to His Excellency. He has therefore made a misstatement when he says that I expressed my acknowledgments. I most positively affirm that I never did.

While His Excellency has on two or three occasions stated that he thought it would be better to avow the course we intended to take, viz., to appoint a Committee to consider the Despatches, I replied that the proper time to make the statement was after the Despatches were submitted.

I state most positively that he never read to me a Despatch to Mr. Cardwell on the subject, nor did I ever directly or indirectly agree to the passage of an Address to the Queen for Imperial legislation to carry out Union, but on the contrary, always objected to it; and I have told my friends so, and written to many persons to that effect since the Session opened.

His Excellency says that he read a note to me, but he does not say that I dissented from it. He on one occasion read a paper which, as he said, he considered the result of our conversation on the subject, and asked me if it was correct. I replied that some part of it was, and some part of it was not, and at once objected to it, and stated emphatically to him that I protested against the paper altogether, and he said he would destroy it.

(Signed) A. J. SMITH.

April 13th. 1866.

#### MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS, FREDERICTON, 2nd May, 1866.

No. 33.

COMMISSIONS Signed by His Excellency the Commander in Chief:—

New Brunswick Militia.

Captain Jago, A. A. G., N. B. Artillery, to be Major, 2nd May 1866.

New Brunswick Regiment of Artillery.

William Isaac Clervly, Gent., to be First Lieut., 2nd May 1866.

Herbert William Goddard, Gent., to be Second Lieut., do.

Second Battalion Saint John County Militia.

Israel Merritt Ross, Gent., to be Ensign, 2nd May 1866.

First Battalion Charlotte County Militia.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Charles E. Mowat, to be Captain, 2nd May 1866.

Ensign Eber S. Polleys, to be Lieutenant, 2nd May 1866, vice Stevenson, promoted.

Robert Melville Jack, Gent., to be Ensign, 2nd May, vice Polleys, promoted.

First Battalion Westmorland County Militia.

Ensign John Andrew Jones to be Captain, 2nd May 1866.

Lieut. Thomas B. Hanington do. 3rd do.

Ensign Edward Jas. Smith do. 4th do.

Ensign Frederick Bateman do. 5th do.

Caleb Beck, Gent., do. 6th do.

James Schofield Crawford, Gent., do. 7th do.

William James Gilbert, Gent., do. 8th do.

Charles Albert Holstead, Gent., do. 9th do.

Lewis Burns, Gent., do. 10th do.

Hippolite Galon, Gent., do. 11th do.