

"an unequivocal avowal, that I did not share in the alarm, and did not anticipate serious danger, and admitted the cogency of the arguments advanced by your Excellency to prove the extreme improbability of any serious attempt in the direction of Woodstock. You Excellency also states that you are confident that if Mr. Connell gives public expression to the same sentiments, it could not but have a most salutary effect in checking the apprehension referred to."

In reply I have to state to your Excellency, that whether privately to your Excellency, or in my place on the floor of the House of Assembly, I have given expression to but one opinion, but that opinion is not correctly conveyed in the language used by your Excellency.

I have drawn this important distinction, that while I did not apprehend any danger from a large body of men coming in force and invading the Province in the direction of Woodstock, I have serious fears that predatory bands of marauders might cross the border, and do much injury to property and perhaps life, and it was that I urged the necessity of a small guard being stationed at other points.

That alarm does exist in the minds of many people in the County of Carleton, is proved by the written evidence of the inhabitants already submitted, and in view of these facts I was justified in making the remarks I did in the Legislature. (Mr. Connell believed that the House would think him justified in all he had done.)

Your Excellency should not forget that whether the alarm is well or ill grounded, it has, to a large extent, originated in the personal efforts made by your Excellency at St. Stephen's, Woodstock, and other places, to arouse the people to a sense of the necessity of preparation.

Added to this the calling out of volunteers in St. John, the action had by the Legislature at the instance of the Government, for land and sea defences, and the general necessity urged by the Government for wide and general protection, are sufficient to create in the minds of the people of such a suspicion that danger is imminent, and, on all these grounds, I feel that the Government has not discharged its duty to the people in the upper district along the border.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient servant,

(Signed) CHAS. CONNELL.

To His Excellency the Hon. A. H. Gordon, C. M. G., Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, }
MARCH 29th, 1866. }

Sir,—

I am directed by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, to acknowledge the receipt, on the 27th inst., of your letter of the 25th. His Excellency does not perceive that there is any essential difference between the statement, to the correctness of which you dissent, and that which you yourself make, for you admit that you do not fear an invasion of Carleton County by any large body of men, whilst of course His Excellency was aware that you, like himself, thought it not impossible that in the event of a se-

rious attack being made elsewhere, small border raids might be attempted in the vicinity of Woodstock.

It being then conceded that no attack in force need be apprehended, His Excellency pre-mises that it is needless that the same measures of defence should be adopted as are required at points where, if a descent is made at all, it will probably assume a more serious character.

The contingency of a small predatory raid is not now foreseen for the first time, for it was against such an attack that His Excellency desired to provide when recommending the formation of a Home Guard in Carleton County. In a speech made by you at the meeting held at Woodstock on the 8th December, the report of which, His Excellency understands, was revised by yourself, (whoever advised His Excellency to put that in his letter, gave him very incorrect advice) you discussed the possibility of an attack by a band of some fifty men. (Mr. Connell, who admitted that expense was not necessary at the time, but another state of things had arisen.) You were then of opinion that it "would be unwise," and "was needless to increase our expenses by the step of drilling out Militia under pay," and that "the plan proposed, i. e., that of enrolling a Home Guard, to serve only in case of need, "would be doubtless sufficient."

His Excellency entirely concurred at the time, and entirely concurs now, in the sentiments then expressed by you, and he is not aware that any circumstances have since occurred to increase or diminish the danger referred to.

You do not, of course, imagine that the peaceable and settled population on the American side of the border contemplate an assault upon their British neighbors, more than the inhabitants of Carleton meditate a descent on Houlton. The raid, therefore, if made, will be made by strangers. But His Excellency has not learned that any unusual assemblage of suspicious characters has taken place upon the frontier; and had any such information reached you or your colleague, you would no doubt have hastened to put His Excellency in possession of intelligence of so much importance.

His Excellency, therefore, cannot concur with you in considering that the measures of precaution adopted in the district in question are insufficient, and he is well satisfied to know that his opinion in this respect coincides with that of the highest military authorities in these Provinces.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. S. KEENE,
Private Secretary.

C. Connell, Esq., M.P.P., &c. &c.

It was a very small operation to incorporate in His Excellency's reply to his letter that allusion to his having revised his speech. What he had said at the meeting at Carleton he had said publicly, and there could be no mistake about what he did say. With reference having manipulated his speech, he would refer to a letter from the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel, to show that it was not the case. Mr. Connell said that he would take occasion to reply to that last communication from his Excellency and incorporate in it the note from the Editor of the Carleton Sentinel, and would publish the whole as part of his

speech. He thought it a small, contemptible business to make that allusion. He did not care what position the individual held, he would not submit to be insulted. He wished the House and the country to know how he had been treated. If he had the abilities of the Hon. Leader of the Government he would let his voice be heard with no uncertain sound on this occasion. Had the Hon. Attorney General been treated in the way he had been used throughout this transaction, would not the House have rung with his wrongs and denunciations of those in high place. He could imagine with what force and eloquence he would have appealed to the House and to the country. But while saying this, he wished to be distinctly understood that he held the Government responsible for every one of these letters, that he considered that an attempt had been made by them to place him in a false position, and that he thought that an injustice had been done to his section of the country.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, }
MARCH, 1866. }

May it please your Excellency:

I am in receipt of your Excellency's letter, of the 29th inst., and to some points therein referred to, have to reply:

Not agreeing with your Excellency in the opinion that the necessary precautions for defence have been taken, I still indulge the hope that the result may show that these precautions are sufficient to meet the emergency.

Your Excellency admits that the contingency of a small predatory raid is not now foreseen for the first time. This admission on the part of your Excellency gives force to, and fully justifies the representation heretofore made by me.

With regard to my speech made on the 8th of December, at Woodstock, to which your Excellency is pleased to allude, I have to say, from the views expressed on that occasion, I have never departed either in private conference with your Excellency or in my place in the Legislature.

I cannot understand why your Excellency has made the reference at all, much less what the question as to that speech having been revised by myself previous to publication has to do with this grave correspondence now.

Your Excellency's conclusions with regard to my views in several particulars, seems to be quite as far from being correct, as the information your Excellency has received about my having revised my speech already alluded to, which is without foundation in fact, the evidence of which I herewith submit is a letter from the editor of the Carleton Sentinel.

FREDERICTON, March 29th 1866.

CHARLES CONNELL, Esq.:

Dear Sir:—in reply to your enquiry this afternoon as to whether you revised the report of your speech made by me on the occasion of a meeting of Magistrates of Carleton County, at which His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor was present, previous to its publication, I have to reply that such was not the case, nor, to my knowledge, did you see my report until it was in print, without my knowledge a revision could not be made. In order to be more fully satisfied, I telegraphed to Woodstock, and am confirmed