

Mr. John Killers.

Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> March 1846.

New York

Sir,

The 20<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>r</sup> last I received of Mr. Fleming yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> of the same month, which I would have answered not more than all those letters wh<sup>ch</sup> at different times you wrote formerly to me if the above mentioned Mr. Fleming had not given me very advantageous intelligence of you. You ~~must~~ may easily conceive that it must have appeared strange to me to receive enquiries respecting my affairs, of a man utterly unknown to me - and as easily you'll be convinced that inquiries made under such circumstances must have remained unanswered. You wish you say, to receive informations respecting my Land Business in order of being able to answer the repeated inquiries made by those persons who formerly were my Co-interestants! why have those persons well known to me, not addressed themselves immediately to me this long while ago? those persons who know me, who know where I am! why might they not forward in a proper manner? why did they not their Duty this long while ago? and let me alone all the Dangers, Costs and Burthen of a Business which we undertook conjointly under the expectation of mutual Risk & Emolument - But which <sup>with</sup> all its Burthen they left me alone so soon as they despaired of reaping any profit by it. Why have these persons declined, or rather distained to answer all my ~~late~~ <sup>latter</sup> letters and have them thus tacitly refused the assistance which I asked of right? an assistance which would have contributed to essentially to the speedy and happy termination of the Business; principally at the time when I found myself put to the necessity of going to England to lay before the Government of the mother Country my Grievance in order thereby to obtain Justice - a step to which I was in duty bound not to be prevented the Damages

Letter to John Killers.

and Lopes of those Persons, who upon our Credit and in Confidence upon the  
faith and honour of the Canadian Provincial Government advance their property,  
you say further in your last letter you wish to receive Information about  
the Situation of my business for the purpose of being enabled to vindicate my  
honour which is calumniated by the said Cointeresteds. No body must  
know better than myself if these attempts of depreiving my Character  
can be supported or not. Convinced of having acted uprightly I must scorn  
idle Chatter - and shall ever scorn it. ~~The wisest~~ wisest the best man  
will never, with all possible Rectitude and prudence in his Transactions,  
be able to prevent, that fools or knaves shall after misrepresentation  
even his best Actions - As even our allmighty Creator except from being  
<sup>they</sup> abused with blasphematic impudence.

you are mistaken when you fancy that the reading of my Letters to the  
late Dederic Conrad Brauer may subject me to any uneasiness of mind.  
I know that the Chief Cause of his Ruin was the Land Speculation in  
upper Canada. I lamented his fate sincerely - But this was not my fault  
in any way. He and not myself had to know how far his pecuniary  
faculties were calculated for supporting and carrying to effect such an  
undertaking, and he should not have induced me to believe his cooperating  
Strength more efficacious than it really was. By Brauer and other  
persons I was induced to place myself at the head of a Business for which  
I became the only ostensible person - the only responsible person, towards  
the public and individuals of the Country where the Business was transacted,  
and wherewith unshaken spirit & rentirable perseverance I will remain res-  
ponsible, considering that in this respect I do fulfill merely and in the strictest  
sense my Duty. No man of pure Principles, no man who cherishes in his  
bosom feelings for Virtue could have foreseen or could have assumed to suspect  
that the Provincial Government of upper Canada should attempt to deceive  
any man in such a base - such a shameful manner as I have effectively  
been deceived. This however being the case I blamed ~~never~~ such an object  
behaviour not only verbally and in writing but by means of the public  
press in my own name. I ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> further all the necessary steps by which

could rise the attention of the British Government and to induce them through  
my Complaints and remonstrations to vindicate its honour by being just in  
punishing and redressing transgressions or errors committed by its Agents in  
Canada. The same principles which led me thus to conduct my actions bound  
me however equally strongly not to withdraw from the Stage of action under  
the pretence of having been deceived and thereby to abandon those who have  
confided their property to my honour and prudence. Always conscious of my  
obligation strictly to adhere to these principles I have cheerfully submitted  
to expose myself to the greatest inconveniences, which I have effectively suffered.

Thus however I succeeded at least so far that I was able to pay the  
greatest part of those debts which were an inevitable consequence of the  
business and the involved Circumstance in which it was immersed by the fault  
of the provincial Government. But to this heavy load of Debts contributed  
not less the reluctance to pay their quotas, of those who formerly were con-  
nected with me. In this latter instance the Case of Mr. Saml. Street  
is one of the most striking examples. On Request of my former Partners  
Co-interprets and duly empowered by all of them I have settled through  
arbitration the Demands of the said Saml. Street which amounted to a very  
considerable sum, and was so happy of reducing this sum almost to the half.

In consequence and conformable to my instructions and power I gave to  
S. Street Bills of Exchange upon Newyork for the balance due to him -  
But these bills have never been paid, and in consequence of this neglect he  
was brought to the very verge of Ruin. After my return from England  
my principal endeavour was to pay those debts for which I was justly con-  
sidered responsible in both the Province of Canada and in this endeavour  
I was successful in the greatest part as already above mentioned. So soon  
as my presence was not more of any absolute and essential use in upper  
Canada I retired from thence to Montreal in the bosom of my family  
deprived without exception of all means of subsistence but those consisting  
in my undervalued abilities. These latter were successfully exerted here  
for more than fifteen months.

not only to Subsist with my family but also for paying by degrees the re-  
-maining of the Debts, of which I have already again paid a considerable part

Thus I am resolv'd to continue until not a farthing can be asked with  
Right from me: provided I am not prevented from so doing by a  
premature Death. Government may act justly or unjustly with me.  
But if the British Government does me that Justice which I have an  
undoubted Right to Claim not only the above endeavour will be crown'd  
with Success but I shall then be able to prove to the World how much  
I am entitl'd and was alway entitl'd to fern what ever Calumniation  
or mistaken explanation of my Conduct.

The Contents of this Letter will I apprehend afford you sufficient means  
of answering completely those questions already made and all further  
questions which may hereafter be made by those who call themselves my  
Cointerpoints and whom I will gladly acknowledge as such if they resolve  
to Cooperate with me - If they resolve to carry the burthen so as I do and  
to reap the benefit with me if ever there may be obtained any. you will  
very Sensibly oblige me by making known the Contents of this Letter as  
much as ever possible, there may be made any further enquiries in  
the premises or not.

I am Sir

your very humble obed<sup>t</sup> Servant.  
Wm. Berezny

P.S. The above Letter I have send you in German Language  
through Mr. Fleming who brought me yours and this Translation  
in English I give to young Mr. Proviser. either of them I hope  
will save by reach you and will not have the same faults all those  
Letters, wh<sup>o</sup> I have wrote to the Persons who now have  
in to my business.