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Sir  
Clarence Mearns 9 August 1836  
In consequence of a letter which appeared  
in the Courier's News Paper (bearing the  
signature), of His Excellency's Private  
Secretary Mr Adam Turnbull, I addressed  
a letter to the Rural Dean of which  
the following is a copy (see my letter dated  
the first August 1836)

I may be permitted to observe, that no mention is made, in the original Letter now before me, of making it public through Mr Grant, a circumstance, that induces me to hope the Calumny as respects my self, found its way to the Public Press without the Knowledge, or sanction of the Government, yet while I am unwilling to believe <sup>that</sup> His Excellency is any party to the Publication of a paper calculated to prejudice the public Mind, and do me a serious injury in the eyes of Society. nevertheless I feel myself called upon, before replying to the charges direct and implied, to respectfully & solicit information as respects the irregular course pursued, with regard to the publication of the document before its transmission to me, and before I had any opportunity offered me of replying to the grave and serious charges it contains. In the course

course: of a long life (for I am now ~~near~~  
75 years of age) it has been my constant  
desire, and anxious care to avoid  
public strife; but, at the same time,  
I have never shrunk, ~~from~~ <sup>for</sup> worldly consid-  
erations, from the avowal of truth, and  
I feel in my own breast, that I can  
justify the reply I made to Dr. Hoops  
in the remarks on, Mr. Gregson's Speech.

I have answered enquiries respecting  
the sale of Collyer Green, but I never  
complained of His Excellency having  
purchased it under discreditable  
circumstances, or asserted that he  
availed himself of his Office to my  
prejudice.

When I am honoured with a  
reply to this Letter, I shall address  
the several Clergy on the subject

Of His Excellencies cruel and uncalled  
for charges against me

Thence the Honor to be

SW

Your most obedient humble servant

John Montague Esq<sup>r</sup> of Lincolnwood

A Colonial Secretary