

James de Caledonia to James Bowdoin, Philadelphia *Freeman's Journal*, 12 March (excerpt)

... Every letter I open latterly brings black tidings; I tremble at the cracking of every seal I break, as every piece of bad news seems to put my *commission* as attorney-general (of the union) farther and farther out of sight. About a month ago I had the *blank* form of it carefully drawn up by a scrivener; but, my lord, a *blank* I am much afraid it will remain: and you know how much I must spend if I live at all, and how I am reduced.

I said that accounts from every quarter were against us; but this truth, my lord, none, but about ten of us in the state know any thing of; for we publish both among our adherents and opponents that every thing is going on favorably elsewhere: and I find our system of deception (which we laid down in the beginning) is carried on with spirit all over the continent; it has been of infinite service to us. And then our stopping all real intelligence, by preventing the newspapers going backwards and forwards thro' the Post-Office, has been a very necessary precaution....

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