

No. 12.

H. G. JOLY, Esq., to the RIGHT HON. SIR M. E. HICKS BEACH, BART.

Brunswick Hotel, Jermyn Street, London,  
May 27, 1879.

SIR,

BEFORE leaving England allow me to thank you for the kind and courteous reception you have given me whenever I have been called upon to communicate with you, either verbally or by letter, in the Letellier matter.

When I requested, yesterday, your leave to enter into the merits of the case, and to establish the truth of what I have always asserted, and still do assert, "that the Lieutenant Governor was fully justified in dismissing his ministers, and committed no wrong in doing so," you stopped me by declaring that you would not enter into the merits of the case, but would limit yourself to consider as purely abstract questions (irrespective of persons and facts) the two following points:—

1st. With whom does the power of dismissal of a Lieutenant-Governor over one of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada rest?

2nd. Can the Lieutenant-Governor of a Province be dismissed for an official act which affects only his Province?

Your promise that no charge brought against the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec would be allowed to weigh in the balance, and that no attention whatever would be paid by you to the merits or demerits of his act, was in strict accordance with what I had a right to expect from your sense of justice, since you would not allow me to refute those charges nor to substantiate my assertion (repeated in my letter of the 22nd inst.)\* that the Lieutenant-Governor had done no wrong.

In that same letter (to which I take the liberty of referring you) I have given reasons why the case should be decided here, and not referred back to the Federal Government, who have acknowledged themselves as one of the parties interested in its decision, and I hope those reasons will carry some weight in your mind.

I now return home with full confidence in your desire to render justice, and in your due appreciation of the importance of this question, the settlement of which will so materially affect the future relations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and the permanency of the system of self-government which it was contemplated by the British North America Act of 1867 to secure to each of the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

I have, &amp;c.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Signed) H. G. JOLY.

No. 13.

H. L. LANGEVIN, Esq., C.B., to the RIGHT HON. SIR MICHAEL HICKS BEACH, BART.

SIR,

Batt's Hotel, London, May 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received intimation that the Quebec Legislature will probably meet for despatch of business on the 19th of June next, and I and my colleague, Mr. Abbott, have thought it our duty to inform you of that fact, as bearing upon the importance of an immediate settlement of the question now before the Imperial Government. We venture to point out that it is now more than two months since the House of Commons of Canada, as the Senate had previously done, pronounced the conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec to be unwise, and subversive of the position accorded to the advisers of the Crown under responsible government; and since the Canadian ministry, in consequence of that declaration, recommended his dismissal, and that the reference to the Imperial Government of the question as to what step his Excellency the Governor-General should take under the circumstances, has suspended further action in Canada. We would add that any material additional delay in deciding upon that reference will result in the renewed exercise by the Lieutenant-Governor of the highest functions of his office, after an emphatic condemnation of his conduct by both Houses of the Dominion Parliament, and after the responsible Ministry of the Dominion, supported by an unusually large majority of the House of Commons, has determined that his usefulness had ceased, and has advised his dismissal. In addition to the other reasons for an early decision which we have already had the honour to suggest, we would