

army. On all subjects of this nature, however, you will consult Sir *Richard Jackson*, whose judgment and military knowledge will be of the greatest service to you.

The only topic which it remains to notice, as affecting the two *Canadian* Provinces, as alike, is that of raising an emigration fund from the proceeds of the sales of the Crown lands. Unfortunately the very elaborate Report communicated to me by Lord *Durham* on this subject, serves but to confirm, and to place in a still clearer light, the difficulties by which, as we were previously aware, the promotion of this most important object is obstructed. Such is the extent of land alienated, and so inconsiderable the proportion which still remains vested in the Crown, that the hope of rendering any effectual aid to emigration by the sale of such lands, cannot, at present, be reasonably entertained. The necessary preliminary to the introduction of any such system, would be the resumption of the large tracts of land held by grantees in a barren and unprofitable state. This could be effected only by the imposition of a tax on uncleared land, and by enactments for the collection of that Tax, to ensure the due execution of the law. In the Lower Province there exists, at the present time, no authority by which such a tax could be imposed. In the Upper Province, it is hardly to be expected, that in the present state of affairs, the difficulties which encompass the subject will be effectually overcome. Amongst the benefits to be anticipated from the Union of the Provinces, it is not the least important, that the United Legislature would be able to act, upon subjects of this nature, with a great comparative freedom from the undue bias of local interests, and with a large view to the permanent improvement of the Provinces.

Such being the principal subjects of common interest to the two Provinces, to which your attention will be immediately called, I have next to notice those which will relate exclusively to the Province of *Lower Canada*.

The act which has been passed in the last Session of Parliament, in amendment of the act of the first year of Her Majesty's Reign, providing for the temporary administration of the Government of *Lower Canada*, will relieve you and the Special Council from many of the impediments by which your immediate Predecessor has been encountered, in the attempt to promote the internal interests of the Province. Sir *John Colborne's* dispatches, and especially that of the 15th *March*, 1839, have pointed out very clearly many objects of great public utility, which he was unable to advance, in consequence of the restrictions under which the Legislative powers confided to him, and to the Special Council, were exercised. To these your attention will, of course, be given. Much as the suspension of Constitutional Government in *Lower Canada* is to be regretted, it will not be without a very considerable compensation, if, during the interval, arrangements should be maturely and wisely made, for securing to the people at large the benefit of those social institutions, from which, in former times the thoughts of the local Legislature were diverted, by the controversies which then agitated the Provincial society.

The establishment of Municipal Institutions, for the management of all local affairs, will be among the most important of the subjects to which your attention will be called. On this subject, I would refer you to the Report of the Earl of *Durham*, and the Appendix, marked C., by which it is accompanied. Although the Commissioners whom His Lordship appointed to investigate the question, were unable, from the shortness of the time, to submit to him any conclusive recommendations respecting it, the information which they collected, will prove of much advantage to you. On the importance of such Institutions, I need not enlarge: your acquaintance with the system of Municipal Government in this Country, will

Despatch conveying to His Excellency Her Majesty's Instructions on his assumption of the Government of Br. N. America.