

No. 23.

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COPY of a Despatch from Secretary Sir George Murray to Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland.

SIR,

Downing-street, 31st July 1828.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the civil government of Canada.

The measures which it may be prudent to adopt for the future government of the Canadas have not yet been decided upon; and your approaching departure from the upper province will no doubt leave it to other hands to carry them into execution; but the only part of the Report to which I feel it necessary to call your attention is the concluding paragraph, with the view of learning from you how far the statement made by the Committee is correct, that the disputes between the local government and the House of Assembly have led to the abrupt termination of the Session.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) G. MURRAY.

No. 24.

No. 24.

COPY of a Despatch from Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland to Secretary Sir George Murray.

SIR,

Halifax, 2d December 1828.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 31st July just received, in which you call my attention to the concluding paragraph of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the civil government of Canada, with the view of learning from me how far the Committee have been accurate in stating that the disputes between the local government and the House of Assembly of Upper Canada have led to an abrupt termination of the session of legislature in that province.

I have the honour to acquaint you, that no ground whatever could have existed for the information, from whatever quarter derived, which led the Committee to make this statement.

There was nothing peculiar in the termination of the session. On the contrary, the legislature, after sitting the usual period, were prorogued by me in the ordinary manner, a previous communication having been had (as has been customary during my administration of the government) with the two Speakers, and no application having been made to me from either house for a later period than had been named.

Had time permitted before the departure of the mail, it would have been very satisfactory to me to have learnt by the perusal of the papers you have transmitted to me, by what evidence, avowedly not ample or satisfactory, the Committee have been induced to report respecting the conduct of the government of Upper Canada, in terms very different from those which have been very generally used by the people of the colony in numerous addresses presented to me on my departure from them.

Having observed an article in one of the principal London papers, written undoubtedly with a view to serve the purposes of party, that the House of Assembly had been dissolved by me to facilitate the success of measures at variance with the interests of the people, and foreseeing the probability that the same assertion will be made elsewhere, I beg leave to apprise you that the Provincial Parliament was not so dissolved; it necessarily expired, having served the time prescribed by law.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) P. MAITLAND.