

## THE LETELLIER CASE.

The following despatch from the Colonial Secretary to the Marquis of Lorne, relates to the case of the Hon. Luc Letellier de St. Just, the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec:—

“ Downing-street, July 3, 1879.

“ MY LORD,—Her Majesty's Government have given their attentive consideration to your request for their instructions with reference to the recommendation made by your Ministers that Mr. Letellier, the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, should be removed from his office. It will not have escaped your observation, in making this request, that the constitutional question to which it relates is one affecting the internal affairs of the Dominion, and belongs to a class of subjects with which the Government and Parliament of Canada are fully competent to deal. I notice with satisfaction that, owing to the ability and patience with which the new Constitution has been made by the Canadian people to fulfil the objects with which it was framed, it has very rarely been found necessary to resort to the Imperial authority for assistance in any of those complications which might have been expected to arise during the first years of the Dominion; and I need not point out to you that such references should only be made in circumstances of a very exceptional nature. I readily admit, however, that the principles involved in the particular case now before me are of more than ordinary importance. The true effect and intent of those sections of the British North America Act, 1867, which apply to it, have been much discussed, and as this is the first case which has occurred under those sections, there is no precedent for your guidance. For this reason, though regretting that any cause should have arisen for the reference now made to them, Her Majesty's Government approve the course which you have taken on the responsibility and with the consent of your Ministers, and I will now proceed to convey to you the views which they have formed on the question submitted for their consideration. The several circumstances affecting the particular case of Mr. Letellier have been fully stated in Sir J. A. Macdonald's memorandum of April 14, in

a  
v  
l  
e  
si  
no  
th  
re  
Br  
mo  
in  
and  
pre  
acti  
as t  
an a  
Gov  
and  
Lien  
Amer  
positi  
matte  
no do  
to dis  
feels  
this ri  
course  
parties  
duties  
under t  
the Go  
point v  
whether