

His Excellency is unwilling to believe that Mr. Smith had any deliberate intention to deceive either the Lieutenant Governor or his colleagues.

He endeavored to avert on the one hand a catastrophe which he feared, and on the other a contingency which he regarded with dislike.

He knew that a refusal to undertake a policy of Union would lead to the non-acceptance of Mr. Wilmot's resignation, and the consequent overthrow of his Government; whilst on the other hand he probably thought a door of escape from the adoption of the measure which he dreaded might show itself before any final settlement were effected, or at least that delay might render legislation by the Imperial Parliament during the present year impossible.

In concluding this discussion, His Excellency cannot but remark on the disadvantages under which he labors in its conduct.

The restraints of his position and the sense of self-respect render it impossible for him to employ weapons which may safely be directed against himself. To the vast majority of the people of the Province he is a stranger and unknown. There is no large party to which he can look for support, and from which all his utterances are sure to meet with a ready response; he is not acquainted with the catch-words and prejudices, an appeal to which raise popular sympathy and applause; he has to combat the not unnatural or improper jealousy with which in a free state any independent act of a constitutional ruler is regarded; and he can only rely on that respect which is still accorded to the Representative of the Queen, and to a name which has for generations been a guarantee for the courtesy and honor of those who bear it.

Although, however, the question of the degree to which an unionist policy has been adopted by Mr. Smith, is not unimportant, it is trivial when compared with those which really are at issue, and from which it may probably be sought to direct attention. Even had His Excellency known Mr. Smith's opinions to be as hostile now as formerly to Union, it would equally have been his duty to have received with satisfaction the Address of the Legislative Council, and to have refused to listen to advice which counselled him to meet with disapprobation or silence the adhesion of that body to the policy recommended by Her Majesty's Government, and already adopted by Canada and Nova Scotia. This is no petty local question; it is one affecting great Imperial interests, and the future destiny of millions of Her Majesty's subjects; and His Excellency could never have consented to treat it as though its principal importance were derived from the effect it might produce on the contests of local factions whose struggles are unheeded, and whose existence is unknown beyond the limits of the Province.

The questions which the act of the Lieutenant Governor and the resignation of his Council raise, are these:—

Could the Lieutenant Governor, consistently with his duty, with his convictions, with his position as an Imperial Agent, have returned any other answer to the Address of the Legislative Council than one similar in substance to that which he did actually give?

Every man whose judgment is not warped and vision blinded by exclusive reference to local politics, will admit that he could not.

The other and yet more important issue is, whether that reply was in accordance with the wishes of a majority of the people of New Brunswick, and expressed their sentiments, or was repugnant to their wishes and hostile to their interests.

This, and not the greater or less degree of Union which Mr. Smith was at one time ready to accept, or the comparative strength and accuracy of his memory and that of His Excellency, is the question upon which the country must pronounce; and to it His Excellency confidently anticipates an assenting answer, given with no hesitating voice.

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

May 1st, 1866.

*To His Excellency The Honorable ARTHUR HAMILTON GORDON, C. M. G., Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New Brunswick.*

The undersigned beg to acknowledge Your Excellency's Memorandum, dated the 11th April, 1866, received on the evening of the 12th instant, in answer to the Memorandum of Council dated 10th April, tendering their resignations.

From the manner in which Your Excellency's Memorandum is drawn up, it is difficult to separate the portion which more particularly refers to the Members of Your Excellency's late Council as a body, from those which refer to interviews and conversations with Mr. Smith. As regards the latter, they refer Your Excellency to Mr. Smith's Memorandum, hereto appended, which they have carefully perused, and beg to corroborate so far as regards the reports and communications made to the Council by him at different times, and Mr. Smith at all times appeared to communicate to his colleagues, fully and without reserve, the different conversations which he had with Your Excellency, and has told them that he stated to Your Excellency that he would do so.