

CANADA.

— No. 5. —

No. 5.

(No. 16.)

Lord J. Russell to
Governor-Gen.
Sir E. Head, Bart.,
19 May 1855.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Lord *John Russell* to
Governor-General Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 May 1855.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 37, of the 26th of April last, and to state that the subject to which the joint letter of the Bishops of Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto refers, is now under consideration, and will not fail to engage the careful attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Russell.*

— No. 6. —

No. 6.

(No. 36.)

Right Hon. Sir
W. Molesworth to
Governor-Gen.
Sir E. Head, Bart.,
24 Sept. 1855.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable Sir *W. Molesworth* to
Governor-General Sir *Edmund Head*, Bart.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 September 1855.

WITH reference to Lord J. Russell's despatch of the 4th May last, acknowledging an Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Council and Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, praying for the repeal of such English Statutes as impede the meeting of the clergy and laity of the Church of England in synod, and that the choice of the bishop may be left to the clergy and laity of each diocese; I now enclose for your information copy of a letter received from the law advisers of the Crown, to whom the subject of that Address had been referred by his Lordship.

You will perceive from the terms of that letter the difficulties which must necessarily impede Her Majesty's Government in dealing with that subject, regarding as it does the rights and position of members of the Church of England, not in Canada only, but throughout the colonial possessions of the empire.

Her Majesty's Government will, however, not fail to take the whole question into their earnest consideration: and notwithstanding the legal, or rather constitutional, objections adverted to in the letter which I now transmit, I am myself strongly persuaded that the desire for freedom of action and self-government on behalf of the Church of England in Canada, is just and reasonable, for the reasons specified in the Address and in your despatch.

For the present, however, further delay is unavoidable; and as it appears to me that the division of the diocese of Toronto is so much desired that it may be very inconvenient to postpone it until the general question is disposed of, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take the necessary steps for this purpose whenever required to do so, and that they will recommend to Her Majesty for appointment to the new bishopric such clergyman as you may yourself designate to them, after consulting the bishop and such authorities of the Church of England in the colony as you may think advisable; and taking such precautions as to the sufficiency of the means for endowing such a bishopric as you may judge necessary.

You will have the goodness to communicate a copy of this despatch forthwith on my part to the Bishop of Toronto.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. Molesworth.*

21 August 1855.
Law officers' opinion,
not printed.