

amounting to a virtual dissolution of the social and consequently of the international compact. Entertaining these opinions, I observe, with satisfaction, that the Officers of the General Government of the United States, supported by the approbation of the moderate and respectable of all classes of its citizens, appear to be exerting themselves with energy in their endeavours to demonstrate, that in that Union there does reside the power of controlling the action of its Citizens, and of thereby maintaining its friendly relations with Foreign States.

“ In times like the present, one of the most important objects to which your attention can be directed is the efficiency of the Provincial Militia. To the general tenor of the Militia Laws I have nothing to object,—but they must, I fear, continue inoperative, in many instances, for want of a Stipendiary Officer who would be responsible to the Government for duly mustering the several Battalions and enforcing the fines for non-attendance. By the Act passed last Session you were pleased to confide to me powers, which, if circumstances should arise to render it expedient or necessary to call them into exercise, either for the defence of this Province, or to aid in the suppression of rebellion, or in maintaining the Royal Authority in an adjacent one, would, I am persuaded, aided by the loyalty of the Militia population, be found fully adequate to meet every emergency. As a measure preparatory to such a contingency, I have caused several Volunteer Companies of Militia Artillery to be placed under the superintendence of an experienced Artillery Officer, for the purpose of organization and instruction; and I would suggest that the Commander in Chief be empowered by Law, to form the several Companies of Militia Artillery and those of the ‘Sea Fencibles’ into Battalions at his discretion.

“ Recent events have shewn the great importance of the communications between these Lower Provinces and the Canadas being rendered more practicable, not only for the passage of the Mail Carriers, but of Troops at all seasons of the year. In connexion with this subject I have to invite your early attention to a Despatch which I have received from the Secretary of State, and which I shall cause to be laid before you, relative to the establishment, by the Home Government of Steam Packets, for the conveyance of Her Majesty’s Mails to Halifax, and suggesting that the improvement of the Roads and Communications between that place and Quebec should be brought under the consideration of the Provincial Legislatures,—and with reference to that part of them which passes through this Province, I recommend to your consideration the great advantage, as well with a view to expediting and facilitating our intercourse with Lower Canada, as to the opening and settlement of the Country, which would attend the early completion of the ‘Royal Road,’ upon which so large a sum has been already expended. I am happy to say that the result of a recent examination of that Road, which I shall direct to be laid before you, appears satisfactorily to prove that the land through which it passes, is in general well adapted for settlement. In further connexion with this line, I would draw your attention to the recent exploration of the obstructions in the bed of the Saint John River, above Fredericton, the report of which will also be laid before you; and I would further suggest an immediate exploration of a Road direct from Fredericton to the Restigouche, to strike that River opposite to the commencement of the ‘Metis Road.’ This line might perhaps be advantageously connected with the ‘Royal Road,’ and also with the Settlement of Stanley. I would likewise suggest the improvement of the Road from Bathurst to Dalhousie and Campbelltown,—also the shortening of that from Sackville, in the County of Westmorland, to the Nova Scotia Province Line, across the ‘Tantamar Marsh.’ All the other lines of Great Roads will doubtless receive a due share of your attention. I would more particularly indicate that from Saint Andrews to Fredericton and Saint John, including on the latter line a more safe, expeditious and convenient passage across the mouth of the River Saint John than at present exists,—an improvement by which the whole of the western section of the Province, including Fredericton and the City of Saint John itself, would be greatly benefited; to this object Legislative aid has already been afforded. The experience which I have recently had of the advantages possessed by the Port of ‘Shediac’ as a convenient point for connecting the Navigation of the Bay of Fundy with that of Northumberland Straits and the Gulph of Saint Lawrence, will, I trust, be turned to future useful account, and I would suggest the appropriation of a small sum to be applied