

in the Assembly would experience a diminution in their ranks; but, under existing circumstances, I see no positive substantial good to result from a dissolution. Recourse might be had to such a measure when you have determined on the line you mean to adopt for relieving the Province from its present state of embarrassment. Coercion, abruptly adopted, might prove fatal, and such a step is therefore to be deprecated, nor can it be justified, except as a *dernier ressort* after all attempts of a constitutional character shall have failed; but liberality, I am sure, will not be lost sight of by the present Government in any course that may be taken, and whatever is arranged should, I think, be in its character, as far as circumstances will admit, conditional, and made to appear as an act of necessity, resorted to only to ward off the evils with which the country is oppressed and threatened.

P. S.—I shall send you, very soon, the names of those I think qualified for the two councils.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
8 March 1837.

— No. 5. —

(No. 205.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Earl of *Gosford*, dated Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Resolutions on the affairs of Lower Canada, a copy of which was transmitted to you in my Despatch of the 11th ult., have all been affirmed by The House of Commons after a very full discussion, and in those instances in which divisions took place, by large majorities. I enclose for your Lordship's information, extracts from the votes and proceedings of The House, containing a statement of the several divisions which have taken place on this subject since I last addressed you. The introduction of the Bill to be founded on their Resolutions must be postponed until after the opinion of The House of Lords shall have been taken on them; but I have every reason to anticipate that it will be submitted to Parliament within a very short period. So soon as the Resolutions shall have been disposed of by The House of Lords, I shall address to your Lordship full instructions on the steps which should be adopted under existing circumstances, especially with reference to the composition of both the Legislative and Executive Councils; I regret that, owing to the delay which has occurred in passing the Resolutions, arising in great measure from the pressure of public business, I have been compelled to withhold these instructions for a longer period than I anticipated, but your Lordship may rely on receiving them in ample time to enable you to prepare for the meeting of the Legislature; whether that meeting should be postponed until the time when the law will require that a Session should be held, or should be fixed for an earlier time, is a question which must depend to a certain degree on local circumstances, of which your Lordship will have the means of obtaining a far more accurate acquaintance than I can; I shall, however, distinctly advert to this point in connexion with the other matters on which I shall have to address your Lordship, and I only refer to it now that you may be aware that it will not be overlooked, and that your own attention may be directed to it in the mean time, with a view to the sound exercise of that discretion which it may probably be expedient to leave in your Lordship's hands with regard to it.

No. 5.

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
29 April 1837.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg*.

— No. 6. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Earl of *Gosford*, dated Downing-street, 29 April 1837.

IN declining to act at once on the recommendations which you submitted in the course of last year for an extensive alteration in the composition of the two Councils, I trust I need not assure you that nothing was further from my intention than to imply the slightest disapprobation of the course which you had taken in transmitting to me those recommendations; on the contrary, I received them as an additional proof of the earnest desire which you have always evinced, to leave no constitutional means untried to effect an adjustment of the unhappy differences

No. 6.

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
29 April 1837.