

Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada, has been pleased to command me to instruct you, to acquaint the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Canada, that, in compliance with their expressed wish and opinion, it is Her Majesty's pleasure that the City of Montreal be henceforward the place of the habitual residence of yourself and your successors in the Government of Canada; and that it is Her Majesty's further pleasure, that the future Sessions of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province, be holden at Montreal, subject of course to the strict observance of the provisions of the Statute already mentioned, respecting the selection of the proper place or places for that purpose.

The Queen is further pleased to direct you to acquaint the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, that Her Majesty accepts their offer of providing the necessary supplies for the expenditure which may be attendant on this measure, and will give the necessary orders for ensuring the effective and economical application of any such funds, in executing the service for which they may be so appropriated.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) STANLEY.

The Right Honourable

Sir CHARLES METCALFE, Baronet,
G. C. B., &c., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

No. 143.

DOWNING STREET,
21st December, 1843.

Sir,

I have laid before the Queen the Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, dated the 10th November, 1843, praying that "Her Majesty will be pleased to adopt such measures as may, in Her wisdom, be deemed expedient to remove the discouragement arising from the duties imposed by the Imperial Act, on Works of the class above mentioned, and calculated to promote the dissemination of important knowledge."

The Queen's solicitude for the general welfare of Her Majesty's Canadian Subjects, and especially for the diffusion of useful knowledge among all classes of the inhabitants of the Province, would have recommended this subject to the Queen's most careful attention, even had it not been brought under Her notice with all the authority derived from the opinion and wishes of the House of Assembly. But Her Majesty finds that the Imperial import duty leviable in Canada on foreign Books originally printed and published in Foreign countries is the same as on all other manufactures of paper,—that is, 7 per cent. ad-valorem—a duty imposed in the 5th and 6th year of Her Majesty's Reign, in substitution for a previous duty of 30 per cent. ad-valorem. If any evidence has been collected by the Assembly to show that this low rate of duty materially impedes the introduction into the Province of original French Works from France, the Queen, on being placed in possession of that evidence, will lose no time in considering how the evil may be best corrected. But in absence of any such information, Her Majesty being unapprized of the extent or of the sources of the mischief, is not able to judge by what means it may be most effectually remedied.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) STANLEY.

Governor,

The Right Honourable

Sir CHARLES METCALFE, Baronet,
&c. &c. &c.

Extract of Despatch from the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the Right Honourable Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.; Governor General, dated 27th March, 1844.

"The Bill regarding the admission of Land Surveyors in Upper Canada, and the Bill respecting the Market Block in the town of Niagara, are both reserved, because each

"of them pre-supposes the enactment of a Law which has not in fact been enacted. Her Majesty's decision on these Acts will be suspended until it shall be ascertained whether significance and effect may have been imparted to them by any other Laws to be passed in the ensuing Session.

"Her Majesty's decision on the Bill relating to the navigation of the St. Lawrence, will also be postponed until it shall appear whether it will be superseded in the ensuing Session by the more general measure which you anticipated."

(Copy.)

No. 201.

DOWNING STREET,
18th April, 1844.

Sir,

I have received from Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General, a Report, dated the 9th instant, on the Bill passed by the Council and Assembly of Canada, on the 9th December, 1843, and reserved by you for the consideration of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon, intitled, "An Act for the better securing the Independence of the Legislative Council of this Province."

In that Report it is stated that, the proposed Bill appears very materially to interfere with the power vested in Her Majesty by the Act of the Imperial Parliament of the third and fourth year of Her Majesty's reign, chapter 25, in reference to the appointment of the Members of the Legislative Council.

It is consequently not competent to the Queen, in point of law, to assent to this Bill. In the absence of any other reason, this, of course, would be a conclusive and insuperable objection to the ratification and final enactment of it by Her Majesty.

That ratification will consequently be withheld, and the Bill will not take effect as Law in the Province of Canada.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) STANLEY.

Governor,

The Right Honourable

Sir CHARLES METCALFE, Baronet,
&c. &c. &c.

Extract of Despatch from the Right Honourable Lord STANLEY, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the Right Honourable Sir C. T. METCALFE, Bart., G.C.B.; Governor General, dated 27th March, 1844.

"The Bill for better securing the Independence of the Legislative Assembly, will be confirmed and finally enacted by the Queen in Council. On a subject so peculiarly affecting the Rights and Privileges of the House of Assembly, Her Majesty defers to the judgment and recommendation of the two Houses of local Legislature, as the surest guide by which Her decision could be directed. It has not, however, been without some distrust of the wisdom of some of the provisions of this Law, that Her Majesty has so decided.

"I assume that the exclusion from the Assembly, of all Records of Cities, of all Sheriffs, of the Adjutant-General of Militia, and of the Master of the Trinity House, Quebec, is justified by some reason which does not exist in the case of holders of the corresponding offices in England. But what those reasons may be is not explained.

"I cannot concur in the opinion, that the prohibition of Ministers of Religion, of whatever Faith or form of Worship, from holding Seats in the Assembly, and from voting for Members of that House, will really remove them from political and party strife. Nor, if I could anticipate that result, should I regard it as an advantage sufficient to countervail the great inconvenience of so detaching the whole Body of the Religious Teachers of the Province from their fellow Countrymen on questions in which all educated men must feel a lively interest, and in regard to which the great majority of such men have duties to perform from which no such regulation can debar them."