

or mutual disinclination, the plan of Union may be found altogether impracticable. Should you find, after all your efforts, that such is the result, you will lose no time in communicating to me, for Her Majesty's information, the grounds of your opinion, and the nature of any alternative which may seem to you more conducive to the general good.

But above all things, it is important to avoid unnecessary delay. The discussion, which has already been protracted at the expense of so much evil, and still greater hazard to the interests of the Canadian provinces, and of this kingdom, cannot be too speedily brought to a close. Her Majesty's Government will, therefore, anxiously await the result of your inquiries as to the state of public opinion in the Canadas respecting the proposed Union, and the terms on which, in your opinion, it should be effected: I earnestly trust that it may be received in this country by a period sufficiently early to enable us to communicate it to Parliament at the commencement, or soon after the commencement of the session of 1840, and then to proceed at once with such measures as may be required to meet the exigencies of the case.

The intelligence which has reached me from Upper Canada, makes it probable that you may be called upon for some explanation of the views of the Ministers of the Crown, on a question respecting which the Bill to which I have referred is necessarily silent. I allude to the nature and extent of the control which the popular branch of the united legislature will be admitted to exercise over the conduct of the executive government, and the continuance in the public service of its principal officers. But it is evidently impossible to reduce into the form of a positive enactment a constitutional principle of this nature. The importance of maintaining the utmost possible harmony between the policy of the legislature and of the executive government admits of no question, and it will of course be your anxious endeavour to call to your counsels and to employ in the public service those persons who, by their position and character, have obtained the general confidence and esteem of the inhabitants of the province.

The military defence of the Canadas is another subject of common interest to both provinces, on which it is necessary that you should be apprized of the views of Her Majesty's Government. In the correspondence between Lord Glenelg and Sir John Colborne, and especially in the despatches of the latter, you will find a full discussion of the plans which have been devised for that purpose. Amongst them is a scheme for extended fortifications, to be erected and maintained at an expense, which it is not evident will be compensated by any equivalent advantage. For the present, at least, notwithstanding the deference so justly due to the opinions of that distinguished Officer, the Ministers of the Crown cannot recommend the adoption of this scheme. On the other hand, the plan suggested from this country and sanctioned by Sir John Colborne, of creating military settlements on the frontier, on the principle of veteran battalions, appears to the Ministers of the Crown as at once the most effective and the most economical plan of defence which could be pursued. Measures will be taken, with the least possible delay, for carrying it into effect; and in the mean time you will discourage and prevent, as far as may be compatible with the public safety, either the augmentation, or the continuance on foot of the volunteers, or the sedentary corps, which were embodied during the last winter as a reinforcement to the regular army. On all subjects of this nature, however, you will consult Sir Richard Jackson, whose judgment and military knowledge, will be of the greatest service to you.

The only topic which it remains to notice, as affecting the two Canadian provinces alike, is that of raising an emigration fund from the proceeds of the sales of the Crown lands. Unfortunately, the very elaborate report communicated to me by Lord Durham on this subject, serves but to confirm, and to place in a still clearer light, the difficulties by which, as we were previously aware, the promotion of this most important object is obstructed. Such is the extent of land alienated, and so inconsiderable the proportion which still remains vested in the Crown, that the hope of rendering any effectual aid to emigration by the sale of such lands, cannot at present be reasonably entertained. The necessary preliminary to the introduction of any such system, would be the resumption of the large tracts of land held by grantees in a barren and unprofitable state. This could be effected only by the imposition of a tax on uncleared land, and by enactments for the collection of that tax, to insure the due execution of the law. In the Lower Province there exists, at the present time, no authority by which such a tax could be imposed. In the Upper Province it is hardly to be expected that, in the present state of affairs,

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Lord John Russell
to the Right Hon. C.
Poulett Thomson.
September 7, 1839.