

CANADA.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the AFFAIRS of CANADA.

— No. 1. —

(No. 117.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable *C. Poulett Thomson* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 28 May 1840.

SHORTLY after my arrival in this province, I received from Mr. Denis Benjamin Viger, who had been in confinement since the beginning of the outbreak in 1838, an application to be set at liberty. To this gentleman, as to the other persons arrested with him, Sir John Colborne had offered his discharge on his giving bail for good behaviour, a condition which had been accepted by every one except Mr. Viger; he, however, constantly refused to give any security whatever, and was consequently retained in prison until my arrival.

It would have given me great satisfaction had I been able at that time to put an end to Mr. Viger's long imprisonment, but, after fully considering his case, and consulting with the Attorney-general, I felt that I should not be justified, at the commencement of a new administration, and at the beginning of the winter, in setting Mr. Viger at liberty unconditionally; I therefore directed him to be informed that I could not depart from the decision of my predecessor in regard to his release.

The time, however, appeared lately to me to have arrived when it was quite useless, with a view to the public tranquillity, to continue Mr. Viger in prison, even without the security from him which my predecessor deemed necessary, and I accordingly directed him to be released unconditionally.

The Ordinance for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act will expire on the 1st of next month, and I have much satisfaction in stating to your Lordship that the province is in so tranquil a state as to remove any necessity for its renewal.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Poulett Thomson*.

No. 1.
Right hon.
C. P. Thomson to
Lord John Russell,
28 May 1840.

— No. 2. —

(No. 112.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right honourable *C. Poulett Thomson* to Lord *John Russell*.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 26 May 1840.

I HAVE great pleasure in stating that the immigration into these provinces from the United Kingdom has been proceeding very rapidly since the opening of the navigation.

I enclose the weekly list which I received yesterday from Quebec, which, with the observations appended to it by the emigrant agent, may appear interesting.

I hear from Mr. Buchanan that there has been hitherto no difficulty in finding employment for such of the emigrants as are inclined to remain in the Lower Province, and I have taken measures for affording information here and for giving it at the different ports above, as to the best places for employment in Upper Canada to such as have that destination in view.

In the absence of funds from the emigration tax, I have authorized Mr. Buchanan to afford assistance, where it appears absolutely necessary, to the most indigent emigrants. I have appointed an assistant emigrant agent in

No. 2.
Right hon.
C. P. Thomson to
Lord John Russell,
26 May 1840.