

Question of Federation of the British Provinces in America.

No. 1.

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EXTRACT from SIR EDMUND HEAD'S SPEECH on Opening the Legislature.

I PROPOSE, in the course of the recess, to communicate with Her Majesty's Government, and with the Governments of our sister Colonies, on another matter of very great importance. I am desirous of inviting them to discuss with us the principles on which a bond of a Federal character, uniting the Provinces of British North America, may perhaps hereafter be practicable.

No. 2.

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EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from SIR E. B. LYTON to Governor
SIR E. HEAD.

(No. 55.)

Downing Street, September 10, 1858.

THE question of the federation of the Colonies is one in which Canada has, no doubt, a very deep interest, and in which any representations proceeding from the Legislature of that Province will be received with the greatest attention; but it is necessarily one of Imperial character, involving the future government of the other North American Colonies, equally bound with Canada by the common tie which unites all the members of that Empire. It is, therefore, one which it properly belongs to the executive authority of the Empire, and not that of any separate province, to initiate. I do not, however, question the importance of the reasons which led you to advert to it, and shall await the farther development of the views of yourself and your advisers on the subject.

I have communicated your speech, and an extract of this part of my despatch, to the Lieutenant-Governors of the other North American Provinces.

No. 3.

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COPY of a CIRCULAR addressed by SIR E. B. LYTON to the Governors of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland.

SIR, Downing Street, September 10, 1858.

ON account of the great importance of the subject, I think it my duty to transmit to you herewith, a copy of the speech delivered by the Governor of Canada on closing the late session of the Provincial Parliament, together with an extract of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir E. Head, respecting that portion of the speech which relates to the federation of the North American Colonies.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. LYTON.
