

No. 1.
Sir G. Arthur
to
Lord J. Russell.
22d Oct. 1839.

Enclosurc.

ardent, and weaken Attachment, however devoted and sincere. Should the Class in the Community which has hitherto supported the Government be driven into opposition to the local Administration, by Encouragement of the former Opposition, another Danger presents itself, which is well worthy of Consideration. Notwithstanding the Clamour of the Politicians who have demanded the Concessions of Authority to the People, the Council believe them not to be the strongest in the Province. Hitherto the Election of a Constitutional Majority has given Strength and Stability to the local Government, but it has never had to contend against an Opposition from its former Supporters, and in such an Event the Council are not afraid to predict that the Conduct of Affairs in these Countries as Colonies will not long be found practicable. The Council do not wish to be understood to assert that Loyalty to the Sovereign, or a Wish to preserve the Unity of the Empire, is confined to any Party or Class of Politicians in the Country; many may be found as sincerely loyal on the one Side as on the other; but if Comparisons must be made of Parties and Classes generally, the Council cannot avoid the Conclusion, that the Portion of the Community claiming to be constitutional are most to be depended upon for disinterested and steady Attachment to the British Crown, and most determined, through good and evil Fortune, to adhere to the Connexion with the Empire, which the Council are bound to regard as a Consideration paramount to all others.

Should a Feeling of Discouragement on their Part cause a Relaxation of their Endeavours, or Retirement from the political Contest, in which their Efforts would no longer appear to meet with Approval or Support, or to any serious Extent induce them to look for the Peace and Security essential to the private Welfare as well as to the public Prosperity of the Community in the Admission of foreign Institutions, the Council think that the Attempt to preserve these Colonies would indeed be vain; and the Council feel that they only discharge their Duty when they state Grounds for Apprehension, which they would willingly hide from themselves, if Events, daily occurring, permitted them to do so.

The Council, for these Reasons, upon the gravest Deliberation, have come to the Conclusion to advise your Excellency that the Dissolution of the present Assembly would not be expedient.

No. 2.

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from LORD JOHN RUSSELL to Lieut. Governor
Sir G. ARTHUR K.C.H.

No. 2.
Lord J. Russell
to
Sir G. Arthur,
17th Dec. 1839.

Sir,

Downing Street, 17th Dec. 1839.

I HAVE to acknowledge the Receipt of your Despatches, Nos. 204 and 214, of the 22d of October and 11th of November, the former containing a Copy of a Minute of the Executive Council of Upper Canada on the Question of the Expediency of dissolving the present House of Assembly, the latter containing your Opinion as to the Course of Proceeding which it would have been convenient to have adopted for bringing the Question of the Union under the Consideration of the Upper Canada Legislature.

I have in reply to acquaint you, that before the Arrival of your Despatch Her Majesty's Government had fully considered all the Objections which existed to a Dissolution of the Upper Canada House of Assembly.

I have only further to assure you that I fully appreciate your Motives in determining to support the Governor General, by every Means in your Power, in his just Authority.

Sir G. Arthur, K.C.H.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

For Despatch,
11th Nov., No. 214.,
vide Correspondence relative to
the Affairs of
Canada, 1840,
Part 2., Page 219.