

dearly purchased. Hence, as it does not appear from your despatch, that the principal public servants receive at present a high rate of pay as compared to that which is given to those who are employed by banks and mercantile companies, I must regard the proposed reductions of salary as injudicious. This question, however, as I have already observed, is one for the consideration and decision of the Parliament of Canada.

4. That portion of the minute of your Executive Council which relates to the amount of the salary at present attached to the office of Governor-General, and your own remarks upon this important point have attracted the more particular attention of Her Majesty's Government. The present salary of that office does not appear to me to be unduly high; on the contrary, believing it to be an object of the greatest importance to Canada, that the post of Governor-General should be filled by men of political experience and of the highest ability that can be found, I regret that the salary is not at present such as in general to afford any temptation to those who have taken a lead in public affairs in this country, to abandon their prospects at home for the purpose of accepting this office. But I concur with your Lordship and with your Council, in considering the amount of the salary as of far less importance, than that this amount, whatever it may be, should be fixed, and should cease to be the subject of perpetual discussion in the province, since such discussion, it is justly remarked by your Council in their minute, is calculated to impair the dignity of the Queen's Representative. It might have been hoped that the manner in which the present salary of the Governor-General was granted for Her Majesty's life by the Provincial Legislature, by an Act of Parliament freely and deliberately passed for that purpose, would have had the effect of permanently settling a question, the agitation of which is attended with so much evil.

Experience has, however, proved this hope to be unfounded; nor can I see the slightest reason for believing that if the existing arrangement were to be departed from, and any possible reduction in the salary of the office assented to by Her Majesty, the question would then be set at rest, or that a still farther reduction would not be proposed as soon as it might suit the views of any political party to renew the discussion.

5. There is but one mode, that I am aware of, by which any further agitation of this question in the province may be effectually prevented, and that is, by making the salary of the Governor-General a charge, not upon the Canadian, but upon the British Treasury. This is an alteration which for many reasons I have long regarded as advisable; and it appears to Her Majesty's Government, that a fitting occasion for proposing it is now presented, in consequence of the desire manifested by the Canadian Parliament for a revision of the Civil List. But it is impossible that such an alteration can be recommended to Parliament except as part of a general measure for placing the fiscal relations of the mother-country and the colony on a footing adapted to the greatly-altered circumstances of the present time as compared to those under which the existing arrangement of those relations has grown up.

6. Canada (in common with the other British provinces in North America) now possesses in the most ample and complete manner in which it is possible that she should enjoy it, the advantage of self-government in all that relates to her internal affairs. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that this advantage ought to carry with it corresponding responsibilities, and that the time is now come when the people of Canada must be called upon to take upon themselves a larger share than they have hitherto done, of expenses which are incurred on this account, and for their advantage. Of these expenses by far the heaviest charge which falls upon this country is that incurred for the military protection of the province. Regarding Canada as a most important and valuable part of the empire, and believing the maintenance of the connexion between the mother-country and the colony to be of the highest advantage to both, it is far from being the view of Her Majesty's Government that the general military power of the empire is not to be used in the protection of this part of Her Majesty's dominions. But looking to the rapid progress which Canada is now making in wealth and population, and to the prosperity which she at this moment enjoys, it is the conviction of Her Majesty's Government, that it is only due to the people of this country that they should now be relieved from a large proportion of the charge which has hitherto been imposed upon them