

mentioned, His Majesty's Government, however, refer exclusively to your Lordship's decision the propriety of holding such a session, and the time at which it should be convened. If you should decide on taking that step, it would be premature, until the result of it should be known, to consider any other expedients, whatever might be their character.

If your Lordship should see fit to hold a session for the purpose I have mentioned, you will act according to your own judgment upon the various questions which will then arise; such, for example, as the granting or withholding any funds which the Assembly may require to meet their contingent expenses, the prorogation of the session, and even the dissolution of the Assembly, if, on mature reflection, that course should seem to you expedient. In the same manner it will be for your Lordship to decide whether sound policy will require the dissolution of the House before another meeting shall take place.

It is in the same manner referred to your own judgment to consider what may be the most judicious mode of applying to the public service in Lower Canada the future receipt from the hereditary and territorial revenue.

So long as you shall adhere to the general principles of the instructions which you have already received, it is His Majesty's pleasure and command that you should act according to your own judgment in whatever manner you may think best adapted to meet the exigencies, not of Lower Canada only, but generally of His Majesty's British North American Provinces.

An attempt has indeed been recently made to urge His Majesty to an instant decision upon some of the most important subjects committed to your Lordship and your colleagues for your and their investigation and report; the attempt has been resisted, and for the best reasons.

When, in the summer of 1835, His Majesty's Ministers advised the King to institute the inquiries with which your Lordship and your colleagues are charged, and declared the Report of the Commissioners must precede any decision on the main questions in debate, they acted under the influence of reasons, in the force and justice of which they then placed, and still continue to place, confidence. Unexpected occurrences, indeed, have subsequently affected the grounds of their anticipations as to the probable results of that mission. But although obliged to shape their course in some degree according to the pressure of circumstances, yet His Majesty's Ministers will not be diverted by the events to which I refer, from a prosecution of the general plan of conduct which they had prescribed to themselves. Adhering to the opinion that on the main questions in debate, they require for their assistance the information and suggestions to be supplied by the Reports of the Commissioners, they intend still to await the arrival of those reports, and will not consent to be hurried into premature and precipitate conclusions.

I must here observe, that the Report of the Commissioners of the 13th March cannot be taken as conveying a final and deliberate judgment formed in reference to general and permanent considerations, rather than to passing circumstances and agitations. It has, on the contrary, a direct relation to the immediate condition of the province at that moment. The Commissioners expressly state, that under other circumstances they would probably have thought it proper to defer their Report on one important subject until they had made more detailed inquiries; but that if their opinion be now required, at once and without further consideration, they must give it as there recorded.

On the topic which is immediately referred to in the foregoing remarks, and on the other main subjects of your inquiries, His Majesty's Government will expect the Report of the Commissioners, after the fullest research and deliberation, by the close of the present summer. Twelve months will then have elapsed from your arrival in Canada, a period sufficiently long for coming to a mature judgment on all the principal questions in debate; to delay your final Reports to a later period might occasion, and perhaps justify, complaint.

In my despatch of the 17th July 1835, I have stated that your Lordship would be at liberty to apprise the public officers of the province that the Ministers of the Crown unreservedly acknowledge it to be their duty to employ all constitutional means for the protection of the public servants against the loss of emoluments earned in His Majesty's service. This communication, therefore, has probably been made to them; you will now state to them that, although circumstances prevent the immediate liquidation of their demands in full, yet His Majesty's Ministers do not the less admit the obligation of the pledge already given for their ultimate satisfaction.