

APPENDIX, NO. 2.

DESPATCH and DOCUMENTS relative to the Light-Houses on SCATTARIE and ST. PAUL'S ISLANDS.
(No. 24.) DOWNING-STREET, 4th NOV. 1835.

SIR—

With reference to Mr. Jeffery's Despatches of the 20th March and 10th April, 1834, and to your despatch of the 14th July, 1835, I have the honor to inform you that His Majesty's Government have recently had under their consideration the representations which have been at different times addressed to them, by parties interested in the Trade of the North American Provinces, upon the subject of the dangerous navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The numerous Shipwrecks which annually occur there, attended in some instances with considerable loss of life and property, have so often formed the subject of correspondence between your predecessors in the Government of Nova Scotia and this Department, that it is unnecessary for me to do more than allude to them; but you will, I am sure, readily understand the anxiety which has been felt by His Majesty's Government to adopt any precautions for obviating the recurrence of such melancholy accidents.—With a view, therefore, of ascertaining the most effectual means for this purpose, the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have endeavoured to obtain the opinions of scientific persons, experienced in the navigation of those Seas, and acquainted with the circumstances of the neighbouring Provinces. The result of their enquiries, as communicated in the Letter and Minutes, of which Copies are inclosed, appears to be, that if Light-Houses were erected upon the Islands of Scattarie and St. Paul, off the coast of Cape-Breton, many of the Shipwrecks which now occur might be prevented. Anxious, therefore, to contribute as much as possible to an object, which their Lordships consider as of national rather than of local interest, they have announced their readiness to apply to Parliament for the funds necessary to the erection of Light-Houses upon those points, provided that the Colonies, whose Trade is to be benefitted by the measure, will engage to defray the expenses of their future maintenance. The liberality which has heretofore been displayed by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, in succouring those who have been shipwrecked upon her Coasts, assures me that that body will cordially co-operate with the Home Government, and with the neighbouring Colonies, in promoting a measure so important to the Commercial interests of the whole of British North America.

Adverting to the details of the arrangement by which the effectiveness of these Light-Houses is to be secured, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have recommended that they should be placed under the management of the Board for the direction of such matters which already exists in Nova Scotia; and they also suggest that, as a preliminary to any further proceedings, that Board should be requested to report upon the measures to be adopted. To the former part of their Lordship's suggestion, I do not apprehend any objection,—from the latter, I have been induced to deviate, in so far as to bring the subject at once under the consideration of the respective Legislatures, because, were I to await a Report from Nova Scotia, it would be impossible to submit it to those bodies during their approaching Sessions. No advantage, sufficient to compensate for this delay, could, I think, be expected from the Report in question. The expense to which each of the Provinces will become liable, by their acceptance of the offer of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, cannot, under any circumstances, be otherwise than inconsiderable; and they will, at the same time, have at hand greater facilities for estimating its amount than I can hope to obtain.—Under these circumstances, I am induced to present the matter for the consideration of the Assembly of Nova Scotia, in its present incomplete form. The other Colonies, to which it is intended to apply for a contribution towards the expense of these Light-Houses, are Lower Canada, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island; and I have suggested to the Earl of Gosford the expediency of His Lordship's communicating directly with yourself and the Lieutenant-Governors of the other Colonies interested in the measure, for the purpose of maturing arrangements which may be common to all. Among these, the principal will be the apportionment of the annual expense; and it has occurred to me that this object might perhaps be conveniently effected by means of a Commission of Arbitration—of which the Members should be appointed by the respective Legislatures, with a power of adopting a final award. This, however, is a point upon which I desire only to offer a suggestion; if any other arrangement should appear to the Legislatures, interested in the measure, to be better adapted to the circumstances of the case, I need hardly state that I shall be ready to co-operate with them for giving effect to it.

In conclusion, I have only to request that, conformably to the desire of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, you will submit the inclosed documents for the consideration of the Board for the management of Light-Houses; and that you will request that Board to favor me with an early Report upon the subject, in order that immediate steps may be taken for commencing the erection of these Light-Houses.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

G. L. E. L. G.