

The Bill introduced into the House of Commons during the present Session of Parliament, embodied, as you are aware, the results of deliberate reflection on the various suggestions contained in the Reports of the Earl of *Durham*. The hope of passing that measure into a law, before the Parliamentary recess, was defeated by various circumstances which occurred, and especially by the intelligence, which, in the commencement of the month of *June*, reached us, from the Lieutenant Governor of *Upper Canada*, of the state of public opinion in that Colony, as expressed by the Resolutions of the Council and Assembly. We have never concealed from ourselves, that the success of any plan for the settlement of *Canadian* affairs, must depend on the concurrence and support of the Provinces themselves. To learn their deliberate wishes, and to obtain their co-operation, by frank and unreserved personal intercourse, will, therefore, be the first and most important of the duties which you will be called upon to perform.

Despatch conveying to His Excellency Her Majesty's Instructions on his assumption of Government of Br. N. America.

In our anxiety thus to consult, and as far as may be possible, to defer to public opinion in the *Canadas*, on the subject of Constitutional changes, Her Majesty's Government must be understood as entertaining a very strong conviction in favor of the Policy of the measure, which they have proposed for the adoption of Parliament, attaching minor importance to the subordinate details of that Bill, we have found no sufficient reason for distrusting the principles on which it proceeds. These are,—a Legislative Union of the two Provinces—a just regard to the claims of either Province in adjusting the terms of that Union—the maintenance of the three Estates of the Provincial Legislature—the settlement of a permanent Civil List for securing the independence of the Judges, and to the Executive Government, that freedom of action which is necessary for the Public good,—and the establishment of a system of Local Government, by representative Bodies, freely elected, in the various Cities and Rural Districts. From any of these principles, Her Majesty's Government would be most reluctant to recede. After a full investigation of every other plan which has been suggested, they have not been able to discern, in any but this, the reasonable hope of a satisfactory settlement. It will therefore be your first duty to endeavour to obtain for that measure, such an assent in its general principles, and such a correction of its details, as may render it acceptable to the Provinces, and productive of permanent advantage. There are various modes by which this object may be accomplished, and in giving an outline of them Her Majesty has commanded me to express to you Her reliance upon your judgment, to be formed upon the spot, as to the employment of such as may be most conducive to the contentment and advantage of Her *Canadian* subjects.

1. You may appoint, by authority of the Executive, a certain number of persons of weight and experience, selected from each Province, to frame articles of Union, to be afterwards proposed to the Legislature of *Upper Canada*.

2. You may assemble the Legislature of *Upper Canada*, and propose to them the appointment of a certain number of Commissioners, to confer with others named by the Special Council of *Lower Canada*.

3. If you find that your overtures to the Assembly of *Upper Canada*, are not met in a fair, conciliatory, and reasonable spirit, you may proceed to dissolve the present Assembly, and appeal to the sense of the inhabitants of the Province. But in the late unsettled state of the Province, in the presence of repressed disaffection, with the necessity of a second dissolution before the Assembly of the United Province can meet,—this step must not be resorted to without the gravest deliberation.

In whatever method you may proceed, Her Majesty's Government will expect to receive from you, founded on competent authority, such a