

SIR,
 REFERRING to my Despatch of 23rd September, and to your answer of 3d October, I have the honour to inform you that the gentlemen named by you to represent Nova Scotia began their consultations with the delegates from the other Provinces and the Ministers of Canada on the 10th October.

The members of the Conference chose Sir E. P. Taché, Prime Minister of Canada, as their chairman, and I have now the honour to transmit to you a copy of the resolutions* adopted by the Conference, authenticated by the signature of that gentleman. * Page 5.

I have also transmitted a similar copy to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and the Governor of Newfoundland.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor
 of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., &c.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) MONCK.

No. 5.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P., to
 Viscount MONCK.

(No. 93.)

MY LORD,

Downing Street, Dec. 3, 1864.

HER Majesty's Government have received with the most cordial satisfaction your Lordship's Despatch of the 7th ultimo,* transmitting for their consideration the Resolutions adopted by the Representatives of the several Provinces of British North America, who were assembled at Quebec. * Page 4.

With the sanction of the Crown—and upon the invitation of the Governor General—men of every Province, chosen by the respective Lieutenant-Governors without distinction of party, assembled to consider questions of the utmost interest to every subject of the Queen, of whatever race or faith, resident in those Provinces; and have arrived at a conclusion destined to exercise a most important influence upon the future welfare of the whole community.

Animated by the warmest sentiments of loyalty and devotion to their Sovereign,—earnestly desirous to secure for their posterity throughout all future time the advantages which they enjoy as subjects of the British Crown,—steadfastly attached to the institutions under which they live,—they have conducted their deliberations with patient sagacity, and have arrived at unanimous conclusions on questions involving many difficulties, and calculated under less favourable auspices to have given rise to many differences of opinion.

Such an event is in the highest degree honourable to those who have taken part in these deliberations. It must inspire confidence in the men by whose judgment and temper this result has been attained:—and will ever remain on record as an evidence of the salutary influence exercised by the institutions under which these qualities have been so signally developed.

Her Majesty's Government have given to your Despatch and to the Resolutions of the Conference their most deliberate consideration. They have regarded them as a whole, and as having been designed by those who have framed them to establish as complete and perfect an union of the whole into one Government, as the circumstances of the case and a due consideration of existing interests would admit. They accept them, therefore, as being, in the deliberate judgment of those best qualified to decide upon the subject, the best framework of a measure to be passed by the Imperial Parliament for attaining that most desirable result.

The point of principal importance to the practical well-working of the scheme, is the accurate determination of the limits between the authority of the Central and that of the Local Legislatures in their relation to each other. It has not been possible to exclude from the Resolutions some provisions which appear to be less consistent than might, perhaps, have been desired with the simplicity and unity of the system. But upon the whole it appears to Her Majesty's Government that precautions have been taken, which are obviously intended to secure to the Central Government the means of effective action throughout the several Provinces; and to guard against those evils which must inevitably arise, if any doubt were permitted to exist as to the respective limits of Central and Local authority. They are glad to observe that, although large powers of legislation are intended to be vested in local bodies, yet the principle of Central control has been steadily kept in view. The importance of this principle cannot be overrated. Its maintenance is essential to the practical efficiency of the system,—and to its harmonious operation,