

your Lordship's special notice, as from the report of the proceedings you will yourself be able to judge of the various kind of merit displayed by each.

15. Unfortunately the shorthand writer's notes have to be telegraphed to the principal journals for publication, and as I have already stated to your Lordship in a previous Despatch, errors and lacunæ unavoidably occur during so complicated a process. Notwithstanding the imperfections arising from this source, your Lordship will not fail to perceive that when called upon to deal with a subject of gravity and moment, there are probably few assemblies in the world to which in eloquence, dignity, and ability for Debate, the Parliament of Canada need yield the palm.

16. I cannot close this Despatch, which describes the concluding scene of the painful drama of which I have been a spectator, without calling your Lordship's attention to the fact that the result arrived at,—a result not only hailed with satisfaction by the victors,—but what is of as great significance, acquiesced in by the vanquished, has been reached by a patient adherence to those constitutional principles which your Lordship has recommended to my observance.

17. If instead of proroguing Parliament on the 13th of August, I had dismissed my Ministers, or compelled them against their will,—had that been possible,—into a line of action which should have eventuated in their premature overthrow, a cry far more loud and genuinely indignant, than that evoked by prorogation, would have been raised throughout the country; and the action of the Crown in rashly discarding or abandoning untried men whom Parliament had recommended to its confidence, would have been denounced with equal vehemence and far greater reason, as a high-handed act of the Prerogative. Nothing so disturbs the march of justice, so confuses an issue, so rehabilitates wrong-doing, as that any irregularity of procedure, any appearance of sharp practice should vitiate the action taken against the accused, and the destruction of my late Government under such circumstances would always have been regarded by its adherents as having been brought about by violent means, and through the uncalled for intervention of an Imperial officer.

18. If my Ministers have now fallen, they have fallen after they have had every opportunity of stating their case to the country, and of pleading their cause before a full Parliament. If the verdict has gone against them, it has done so under circumstances which leave them no ground of complaint against the Representative of the Crown.

19. On the other hand it must be apparent to those who take an adverse view of the conduct of the late Administration, that a result which they would probably designate as the vindication of the national credit and public reputation of the Dominion, has been brought about, not by an ill-considered and hasty exercise of Imperial authority, nor by the application of premature pressure from without, but by the free and spontaneous action of the Representatives of the Canadian people—a conclusion which they will hail with a satisfaction, proportionate to their power of appreciating the privileges of self-government, and to the importance they may attach to Canada being recorded in history as having proved competent to the guardianship of her highest interests.

20. During the whole of this unfortunate business, I have never doubted but that a strict application of the principles of Parliamentary Government would be sufficient to resolve every difficulty, and that a result would be eventually arrived at in harmony with the convictions and wishes of the Canadian people. Had it proved otherwise, I still held in reserve a Constitutional power equal to any emergency, and in the last resort I should have been quite prepared to have exercised it in whatever way the circumstances of the case might have justified.

The Earl of Kimberley,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 14.

The EARL OF KIMBERLEY to The EARL OF DUFFERIN.

My LORD,

November 29, 1873.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Lordship's Despatch of the 7th of November,\* reporting the proceedings of the Dominion House of Commons on the re-assembling of Parliament, on the subject of the charges brought by Mr. Huntington

\* No. 13.