

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO

A MEETING AT QUEBEC OF DELEGATES

APPOINTED TO DISCUSS THE

PROPOSED UNION OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

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Copy of a DESPATCH from Viscount MONCK to the Right Hon.
EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 135.)

SIR, Quebec, September 23, 1864.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of an approved Minute of the Executive Council of Canada, requesting me to invite the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, to send Representatives to a conference with the Ministers of Canada, at Quebec, to be held for the purpose of considering the question of the Union of these Provinces, and to digest a practical plan for the realization of the idea which should be submitted for your approval.

The desire for a closer union amongst these Colonies than has hitherto existed appears to be very generally felt both in Canada and in the Lower Provinces.

It appears to me that the mode of proceeding suggested in this Minute is the only one in which the views entertained by the leading politicians of the British North American Colonies on this important subject can be brought intelligibly and in a practical form before your attention.

This course is also I think that which was pointed out by the Duke of Newcastle in his Despatch to Lord Mulgrave (Nova Scotia, No. 182), of July 6, 1862,* trans-
mitted to me for my information on the same day, as that which ought to be pursued in the circumstances.

I have therefore had no hesitation in complying with the request of my Executive Council, and I have addressed identical communications, of which I enclose a copy, to the Lieutenant-Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, and to the Governor of Newfoundland, inviting them to nominate deputations to represent these respective Provinces at the proposed Conference.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

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

Copy of a REPORT of a Committee of the Executive Council, approved by his Excellency the
Governor General on September 23, 1864.

THE Committee of Council has the honour to inform your Excellency that the deputation from the Executive Council who met the delegates from the Maritime Provinces at Charlottetown on the 1st instant, in accordance with the Order in Council of the 29th ultimo, have reported that such Conference duly met, and that the question of a Confederation of the British North American Colonies was discussed at length, and such progress made that it was thought desirable by the Conference that the subject should be resumed in a formal and official manner under the authority of the Governments of the several Provinces.