

Colony will have relieved your Government from all apprehension for the future, and will enable you to deal with the persons who have fallen into your hands with deliberate consideration of the various reasons which should affect your treatment of them, and without incurring any appearance of precipitation or undue severity.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) EDWARD CARDWELL.

Viscount Monck.

*The Earl of Caernarvon to Lord Monck.*

(Copy.—Canada, No. 4.)

DOWNING STREET, 7th July, 1866.

MY LORD,—I observe that the recent Act of the Canadian Parliament, authorizing the trial by Militia Courts Martial, of foreigners and others who are guilty or accessory to acts of aggression or hostility in *Lower Canada*, has formed the subject of a communication from my predecessor in this Department.

This Act, which is copied from an Act passed in 1838 for the protection of *Upper Canada*, and is made applicable to the Lower Province, is of an exceptional character, and to be justified by the exceptional circumstances of the time.

I shall advise Her Majesty to leave it to its operation; at the same time I am unwilling to lose any time in expressing my earnest hope that recourse will not be had to any but the usual tribunals for the trial of offenders.

When, in 1838, a similar Act was passed for *Upper Canada*, the general condition of the Province was, in many respects, a very critical one. Such, happily, I understand from Your Lordship's Despatches, is not now the case. Thanks to the loyalty of all classes in *Canada*, and to the good faith and co-operation of the *United States* authorities, all aggression from their territory has been baffled, and no immediate danger appears to threaten the peace of the Province. There remains, doubtless, some mutual resentment on the part of those who have been exposed to so wanton and criminal an outrage, but I am confident that Your Lordship and your Advisers are fully alive to the wisdom of moderation in such a case, of confining the punishment of the offenders, so far as practicable, within the limits of what may be required for the protection of the Province now and in the future.

But under any circumstances Her Majesty's Government consider it on every account to be desired that the persons concerned in this insane and lawless enterprise should be tried with all deliberation, and should not be deprived of any advantage which can be claimed under the ordinary forms of law; and it would be to them a cause of serious regret if any step were taken from which it could be inferred that the British authorities were either unwilling to await the ordinary course of justice, or distrustful of the spirit in which it would be administered.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) CAERNARVON.

Viscount Monck, &c.

The Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Cartier*, one of Her Majesty's Executive Council, laid before the House, by command of His Excellency the Governor General, a Petition of the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in *Canada*, with a Copy of an answer in connection therewith, as followeth:—

*To His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord Monck, Governor General, in Council:*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

The undersigned, Bishops of the Province of *Canada*, assembled at *Montreal*, humbly submit to Your Excellency—

That in view of the approaching Confederation of the British Provinces, a measure is being submitted to the Legislature, having for its object to grant to the Protestant minority of *Lower Canada* certain rights and privileges.

The undersigned are quite willing that such a measure should become a law, and that the minority in *Lower Canada* should have a recognized right to watch over the education of their children. They, at the same time, beg leave to state that, in simple justice, all rights and privileges granted to the Protestant minority of *Lower Canada*, should be extended to the Catholic minority in *Upper Canada*.