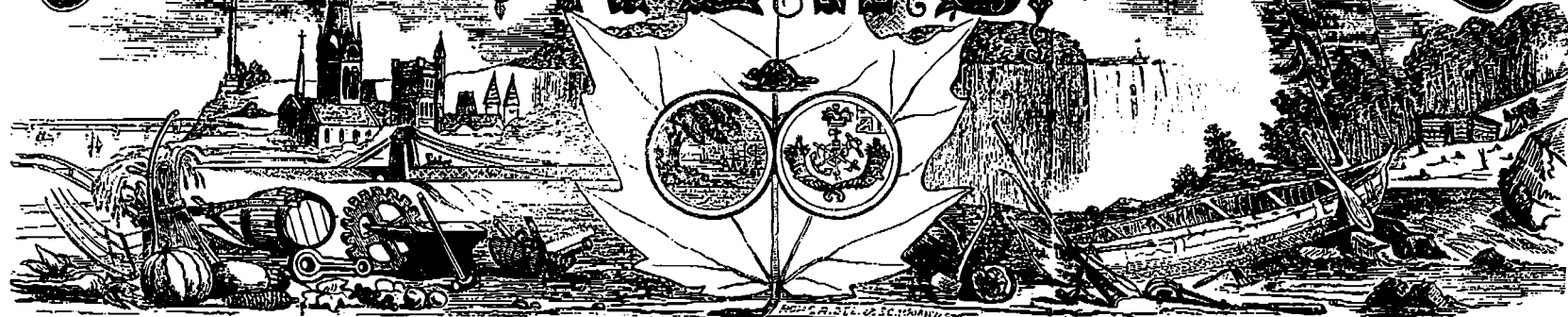


THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS



Vol. II—No. 16.]

HAMILTON, C.W., SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1863.

[³³ PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE SINGLE COPIES 7 Cents.]

LORD LYONS.

On Monday, August 24th, 1863, His Excellency, Lord Lyons, Ambassador of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, to the United States, paid a visit to Hamilton. He came quietly and so departed.—People find it difficult where to discover the line that divides the private gentleman from the public functionary, and so could not pay him the respect that otherwise might have dignified his arrival.—We should not choose the onerous office of saying where the one attribute begins and the other ends, yet cannot help writing an expression of disappointment. The people of Canada were desirous of seeing the representative of the Queen. They were disappointed. In the absence of matter, more personal and exact, the report is submitted of what was said between His Lordship and Mr. Seward the American Secretary of State in the early stages of this dreadful war.

Lord Lyons to Sir Edmund Head, Governor General of Canada: [Extract.]

WASHINGTON,

April 19, 1861.

'I informed you in a private letter some days ago, that I had learnt, from what I thought good authority, that this government had determined to send two secret agents to Canada, and that it was supposed the object was to ascertain the state of feeling in the Province with regard to annexing itself to the United States.

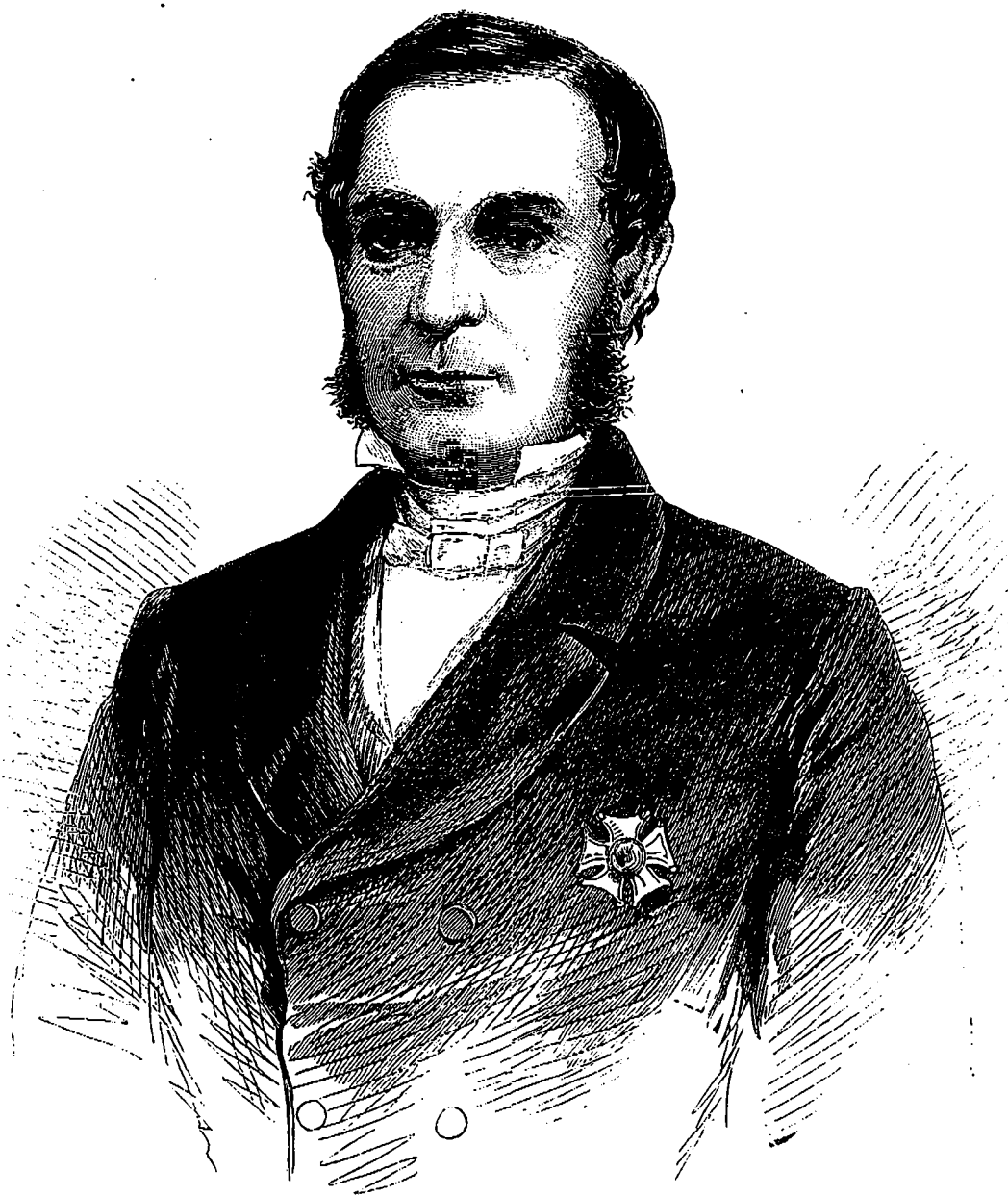
I showed him the paragraph in the paper yesterday afternoon at the State Department, and asked him whether there was any truth in it.

'That,' he replied, 'is a question which I cannot answer.'

'It is,' I said, 'a very irregular proceeding.'

I repeated this remark, and then Mr. Seward asked why it was irregular.

I answered that it was an attempt to hold communication otherwise than in the regular official manner, and through the regular recognized channels.



HIS EXCELLENCY LORD LYONS, AMBASSADOR OF GREAT BRITAIN TO THE UNITED STATES.

After a pause Mr. Seward went on to say: 'If you suppose that any agent of this Government has been dispatched with any object affecting the present Colonial relations of Canada to Great Britain, you are entirely mistaken.'

I said that I was very far from having intended to suggest so grave a charge against the Government of the United States as this.

'After all,' observed Mr. Seward, 'if we did send an agent to Canada, I suppose it would be no treason.'

I replied that 'treason' was usually ap-

plied to breakers of the obligations between subjects and the Power to which they owed allegiance; that breaches of international obligations were a different matter.

Here the conversation ended. The impression left upon my mind was, that undoubtedly an agent or agents had been sent to Canada, and that whatever the object was, it was clearly one which the Secretary of State was unwilling to avow to the British Minister.'

Lord Lyons to Lord John Russell, (since raised to the peerage as Earl Russell,) Sec-

retary of State for Foreign Affairs:

WASHINGTON, April 22, 1861.

MY LORD:—The inclosed copy of a letter, which I addressed on the 19th instant to the Gov. Gen. Sir Edmund Head, will make your Lordship acquainted with the steps taken by me with regard to a report that secret agents have been sent by this Government to Canada.

The Mr. George Ashman, who is stated to be one of these agents, was president of the convention at Chicago, which nominated Mr. Lincoln as the candidate of the Republican Party for the Presidency of the United States.

In one, at least, of his speeches during the Presidential canvass, Mr. Seward alluded to the eventual acquisition of Canada as a compensation to the Northern States for any loss they might sustain, in consequence of the disaffection of the Southern part of the Union.

I suppose, however, that the agents who now appear to have been sent to Canada have been dispatched with some definite and practical object. Your Lordship will perceive from my letter to the Governor General, although Mr. Seward refused to give me any other information on the subject, he did assure me that no agents were employed by this government for any object affecting the Colonial relations between Canada and the British Crown.

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

Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell.

WASHINGTON, June 17, 1861.

MY LORD,—In the course of conversation which I had with Mr. Seward this morning, he himself introduced the subject of the secret agent whom he had sent to Canada in April last. He said that Mr. Ashman, the person sent, was a most respectable man, and that the object of his mission was to ascertain the feeling in Canada with regard to fitting out privateers on the St. Lawrence. Mr. Seward added, that as soon as I had spoken to him on the subject, he had recalled Mr. Ashman. (See next page.)