

COPIES of Lord *Aylmer's* DESPATCHES on 5th March 1834, addressed to the Right Honourable *Edward Stanley*, and of the 18th March 1835, addressed to the Earl of *Aberdeen*.

— No. 1. —

Sir,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 5 March 1834.

IN my despatch of the 13th January, and of the 22d of the same month, I had the honour of reporting to you the opening of the Session of the Provincial Parliament of Lower Canada, on the 7th of January, and the failure of Mr. Bourdage's attempt to prevent the House of Assembly from proceeding to business, by reviving their Resolutions of last Session, to hold no further intercourse with me, in consequence of my refusal to sign a writ for the election of a Member of the House of Assembly, in place of the Honourable Dominique Mondelet, who had been deprived of his seat on the authority of a Resolution of the House, for having accepted the office of Executive Councillor.

Immediately upon receiving the Address of the House of Assembly in answer to my opening Speech, I sent down (on the 13th January) two messages, one relating to the financial difficulties of the Local Government, and another communicating the views of His Majesty's Government regarding the case of Mr. Mondelet; and on the following day (the 14th of January), I sent down another message to the House of Assembly, conveying the answer of His Majesty's Government to the Address of the House (transmitted towards the close of last Session), upon the subject of the Legislative Council. Copies of the three messages above mentioned will be found amongst the accompanying documents.

No. 1.

No. 2.

No. 3.

Instead of proceeding at once to the consideration of the financial difficulties of the Local Government, which in obedience to the instructions received by me had been so urgently pressed upon their early attention, a call of the House was ordered for a distant day (the 15th of February), for the purpose of taking the state of the province into consideration. This proceeding appeared the more remarkable, from the circumstance of a very considerable number of the Members being present in their places; very few, in fact, were absent when the call of the House was ordered.

This delay in entering upon the consideration of a subject to which so much interest was attached by His Majesty's Government, and which, in fact, was of vital importance, was not calculated to create very sanguine expectations as to the disposition of the House of Assembly to relieve the financial difficulties of the Local Government; it inspired me, on the contrary, with serious apprehensions for the result, which were not a little increased when, not many days afterwards, an Address was presented to me from the House of Assembly, praying for the issue of my warrant for 7,000*l.* on account, towards defraying their contingent expenses.

This eagerness to provide for their own wants, whilst the consideration even of those of the Government was deferred to a distant day, excited in my mind (I must confess) sinister suspicions as to the ultimate intentions of the House. I decided, therefore, to decline incurring any further responsibility in making the advance applied for; and without entering into the whole of my motives for doing so, in my answer to their Address, I assigned such as appeared to me sufficient to justify my refusal; these will be found stated in my Message in answer to the Address of the House of Assembly, to which I take leave to call your particular attention, as well as to the Report of the Committee to which it was referred, because of the importance which has been attached to this subject by the House of Assembly, in the 92 Resolutions subsequently adopted by them.

No. 4.

To have made a large advance by means of an accountable warrant, to relieve the House of Assembly from the pressure of engagements entered into for their