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respective Governments of the Canadian provinces, but are best consulting for His Majesty's service, and for the welfare of his subjects at large.

You will not, I am persuaded, suppose that in adopting this course, the Ministers of the Crown are seeking to shrink from the responsibility which justly attaches to them, or to impose on you an undue share of it. You will, with your wonted candour, feel that we are actuated by no other motives than the apprehension of impeding measures which it is scarcely possible that we should safely direct, and you will undertake the duty thus committed to you with that fearless and single-minded determination to promote the welfare of the important province under your government, by which your administration of its affairs has hitherto been characterized.

In order that you may be able to act with the requisite freedom, it is however necessary that I should shortly explain the motives which have induced the Government to decline a compliance with the recommendation made in the Report of the 13th March, of your Lordship and your colleagues in the Canada Commission.

That Report proceeds upon a supposition, that a crisis had arrived requiring an extreme remedy; and if His Majesty's Government were satisfied that this is really the case, they would be ready to consider what would be the proper measures to be adopted in such an emergency. At present, however, they do not feel themselves called upon to give any opinion on that subject, because it does not appear to them that the extremity assumed in the Report actually exists. It is true that the House of Assembly have refused the supplies for more than six months, and have presented complaints to the Throne, calling at the same time for an early reply. But on a review of all that has passed, the conclusion seems to be warranted, that the House have so acted under a misconception of the instructions issued to your Lordship and your colleagues, as Commissioners of Inquiry.

I have already signified to your Lordship His Majesty's approbation of the speech with which you opened the late Session of the Assembly. The peculiar circumstances under which you assumed the Government of Lower Canada required a full exposition of the views and policy of His Majesty's Government, with reference to that country, and such an exposition was given by that speech. At the same time, in communicating to the Assembly of the Province, the substance and not the copies of your instructions, you adopted a course which was in conformity with that usually followed by the representatives of His Majesty on opening the session of Provincial Legislatures. Feeling himself called on to adopt a different course, Sir F. Head unconsciously conveyed to the public in both provinces an impression of the nature of the instructions under which your Lordship and your colleagues were acting, not merely imperfect, but materially inaccurate. The portions of those instructions quoted in my despatch to Sir F. Head, were detached from the context by which they were explained and illustrated, the object with which I wrote to Sir F. Head not demanding such illustration and explanation. When the comparatively brief epitome of them contained in your speech at the commencement of the session, came to be collated with those detached passages from the original, I do not think it a just matter of surprise that the comparison should have occasioned considerable perplexity. Unworthy and incredible as were the suspicions thus originating, it is yet a subject rather of regret than of astonishment, that in the excited state of the public mind, and in the strife of contending parties, means should have been found to propagate distrust, and to have induced a belief that the real intentions of His Majesty's Government were less just and liberal than the Assembly, judging from your Lordship's speech, had inferred them to be.

In my despatch of the 7th instant, I have pointed out what I conceive to have been the misapprehension under which the House of Assembly laboured, as to the terms and meaning of the instructions respecting the constitution of the Legislative Council. If the view taken in that despatch be correct, it is clearly just that the House should not be held to be committed to a course adopted under a misconception, but should have an opportunity of reconsidering the subject with the full information as to the views and intentions of His Majesty's Government, which they will have derived from the perusal of the whole of the instructions addressed to your Lordship and your colleagues.

The most obvious course of proceeding is, therefore, that of convening an immediate Session of the Legislature of Lower Canada, to afford them the opportunity for such re-consideration, and, with that view, I have addressed to your Lordship my accompanying despatch, of the 7th instant. In pursuance of the principle already mentioned,