

# COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF ANY

REPORTS made by the GOVERNORS of NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and NEWFOUNDLAND, respectively, in consequence of the Receipt of the Letter of the SECRETARY of STATE of the 16th October 1839, upon the SUBJECT of the ADMINISTRATION in future of the PATRONAGE of their several GOVERNMENTS.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

### No. 1.

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant General Sir COLIN CAMPBELL G.C.B. to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

No. 1.  
Sir C. Campbell  
to  
Lord John Russell,  
1st March 1840.

My Lord,

Government House, Halifax, 1st March 1840.

I took the earliest Opportunity of laying before the House of Assembly a Copy of your Lordship's Circular of the 16th October, relating to the Tenure of Offices held during the Pleasure of the Crown.

The House eagerly hailed that Despatch as a Recognition of their Claims for a responsible Government, and as imposing henceforth on the Lieutenant Governor the Obligation of dismissing or remodelling his Council whenever it shall cease to enjoy the Confidence of the Representatives of the People.

Disappointed by the Results of their late Delegation to England, and conceiving its Objects to have been in a great measure frustrated by the local Government, interested, as they assert, in maintaining extravagant Expenditure and other so-called Abuses, the House lost no Time in passing and presenting to me a Set of Resolutions (No. 1.), expressing their Want of Confidence in my Council, in full Expectation, though its Avowal was not then hazarded, that, under the Authority of your Lordship's Despatch, I would immediately dismiss my present Councillors, and call to my Assistance in their Place the leading Members of the Assembly, and others who would co-operate with them in accomplishing those extreme Measures of Reform, for which a Majority of the House has for the last Three or Four Years strenuously contended.

My Answer to these Resolutions (No. 2.) will explain to your Lordship my Reasons for not acceding to the Wishes of the House; but as it failed to carry Conviction with it, an Address (No. 3.) was immediately adopted, distinctly referring to your Lordship's Circular of the 16th October, and to the Governor General's Message of the 14th January, in support of their Views, and as mandatory on me to comply with them, and earnestly praying me to reconsider the Subject.

Not regarding your Lordship's Despatch in the same Light with the Assembly, conceiving that it was not intended to sanction any fundamental Change of the Constitution, but merely to strengthen the Hands of the Governor, by enabling him more effectually to control refractory Public Functionaries, to get rid of inefficient ones, and to insure the cordial Co-operation of all Public Servants in the Measures of his Administration; having Reason to be satisfied with my Council as it is, and knowing how ruinous the Consequences would be of the Introduction into it of those whom a Majority of the Assembly wished to force upon me, I returned to this Address the Answer (No. 4.)

As soon as my Reply was read in the House, Mr. Joseph Howe gave Notice that, before the Close of the Session, he would move a Vote of Censure upon me, and an Address to the Queen for my Removal.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) C. CAMPBELL.

For Lord John  
Russell's Circular  
Despatch, 16th  
October 1839,  
vide Correspondence relating to  
Affairs of Canada,  
1839, Part 1,  
p. 15.