

system of government. Under 'responsible government' might not Papineau and Mackenzie have never existed as rebels; perhaps have developed into constructive statesmen?

- CX. An Act Amending 1 & 2 Victoria, c. 9 (2 & 3 Victoria, c. 53), 1839 . . . 414

- CXI. Lord John Russell to Poulett Thomson, September 7, 1839 . . . 416

Thomson is sent to Canada to learn the deliberate wishes and to obtain the co-operation of the provinces, without which there can be no successful Canadian settlement. The government is strongly in favour of the proposed union, and Thomson will endeavour to obtain for its principles such an assent as will render them acceptable. Suggestions are given as to methods: he may appoint a committee of authority from each province to frame articles of union, to be proposed to the Upper Canadian legislature; he may assemble the latter and propose the appointment of commissioners to meet those from Lower Canada, and in the event of hostility in the assembly, he may dissolve it and appeal to the people. This step, however, must be taken with the gravest deliberation. Whatever the method, the government will expect to receive a detailed plan of union. If the proposal proves impracticable, an alternative is expected. 'Impossible to reduce into the form of a positive enactment a constitutional principle' of responsibility. 'It will be your anxious endeavour to call to your councils and to employ in the public service those persons, who by their position and character, have obtained the general confidence and esteem of the inhabitants of the province.' Military affairs, emigration and the land question require serious attention. Municipal institutions demand immediate and special consideration. In Upper Canada, finances and the clergy reserves are pressing questions. Her Majesty is determined to maintain the connexion between the United Kingdom and the American colonies.

- CXII. Lord John Russell to Poulett Thomson, October 14, 1839 . . . 421

Must refuse any explanation of 'responsible government' which would imply a surrender to the petitions and addresses. The imperial parliament has already expressed its opinion on the matter (No. XCIII). There can be no proposals entertained on the subject. Cabinet government impossible in a colony. Colonial councils cannot advise the crown of England. Impossible to reconcile the responsibility of the governor to the crown with a responsibility on his part to his council. Impossible also to define the power of the governor and the privileges of the assembly. The only rule is 'a wise moderation' by each.

- CXIII. Lord John Russell to Poulett Thomson, October 16, 1839 . . . 423

The tenure of subordinate colonial offices during the pleasure of the crown has generally come to mean a tenure during good behaviour. This must cease. Any sufficient motive of public policy or a change in the person of the governor will in future be sufficient reason for changes in officials. The judges are excepted. Pensions and indemnities may be necessary, but the rule must be enforced as often as the public good demands it.

- CXIV. Poulett Thomson to Lord John Russell with the Address and Resolutions from the Lower Canadian Special Council in favour of Union, November 18, 1839 424

Special council of Lower Canada adopts plan for union. There is naturally much diversity of opinion owing to the rebellions, but almost every one sees the necessity for change.

- CXV. Poulett Thomson to a Friend, November 20 and December 8, 1839. 427

Describes his successes, in favour of the union, in Lower Canada. Has fears for a similar result in Upper Canada—the country of factions, where the 'constitutional party is as bad or worse than the