

The Honorable Mr. *Campbell* acquainted the House that he had a Message from His Excellency the Governor General, under His Sign Manuel, which His Excellency commanded him to deliver to this House.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

JOHN YOUNG.

No. 167, July 30, 1868. His Excellency the Governor General transmits to the Senate, the accompanying copy of a Despatch received by Lord *Monck*, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, respecting the Bill passed in the last Session of Parliament "to fix the salary of the Governor General."

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ottawa, April 26th, 1869.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to Viscount Monck.

(Copy—Canada—No. 167.)

DOWNING STREET,
30th July, 1868.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 85, of the 23rd of May, transmitting a Bill passed by the Senate and House of Commons of *Canada*, "to fix the salary of the Governor General," which Bill you have reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

I need scarcely say that it is with reluctance, and only on serious occasions, that the Queen's Government can advise Her Majesty to withhold the Royal sanction from a Bill which has passed two branches of the Canadian Parliament. The present, however, is a measure which has important bearings far beyond its first aspect as a mere reduction of expenditure.

The annual salary of the Governor General was fixed at £10,000, so lately as last year by the Imperial Act of Union. Within the first few months of the existence of the new Parliament of *Canada* it is proposed to reduce that salary to £6,500.

I fear that the effect of such a reduction, if assented to, must be prejudicial to the interests of *Canada*. The Governor's salary in the Colony of *Victoria* is £10,000 per annum; there are several Colonies in which it is £7,000, in *Canada* the amount contemplated by the Bill under consideration is £6,500. Instead of being, as it ought to be, an object of the highest ambition, the Office of Governor General is by this proposal placed, so far as salary is a standard of recognition, in the Third Class amongst Colonial Governments. The effect would be not merely to restrict Her Majesty's Ministers in the choice of Governors General to those who may follow the career of Colonial Governors as a profession, but further to confine the choice even amongst those gentlemen who are still rising, and who would have to look to other places than *Canada* as offering the highest reward for approved abilities and success.

But the Governor General is the Representative of the Queen and the highest authority in a Dominion vast in extent, occupied by several millions of people, comprising within itself various Provinces recently brought together which can only be knit into a mature and lasting whole by wise and conciliatory administration. Nor is the position insulated. The Governor General is continually called upon to act on questions affecting international relations with the *United States*. The person who discharges such exalted functions ought to possess not only sound judgment and wise experience, but also an established public reputation. He should be qualified both to exercise a moderating influence amongst the different Provinces composing the Union, and also to bear weight in his relations with the British Minister at *Washington*, and with the authorities of the Great Neighbouring Republic.

I am sure that the Queen's Advisers in this Country would at all times wish to obtain for *Canada* a Governor General so qualified, but they could not invite his services if the income of his office is insufficient to meet the demands on his resources, and to uphold in a becoming manner the dignity of the Queen's Representative in *Canada*.

For these reasons Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty to advise Her Ma-