

be imperiled if the United States are permitted to share the privilege. It may well be doubted, however, whether these apprehensions are well founded. One of the most efficacious expedients for securing the allegiance of a high-spirited and enterprising people is to convince them that their material interests will not be advanced by separation; and with respect to any disposition on the part of the United States to resort to a policy of aggression, I think it may safely be affirmed, that nothing will be more likely to keep such a tendency in check than the knowledge that it will entail the destruction of a flourishing trade in which the citizens of that country are largely engaged.

5. Should your Lordship assent to these views, the objects sought for might probably be accomplished if such a construction were put upon the imperial statute for the suspension of the Navigation Laws, as would permit ships of all nations to resort freely to Montreal during its subsistence; and if, in the meantime, negotiations were entered into with the Government of the United States for the purpose of securing to the people of that country the privilege of navigating the St. Lawrence, after the expiration of the Act in question, in return for such concessions on their part as might be agreed on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

CANADA.

No. 13.

(No. 56.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor-general the Right honourable the Earl of ELGIN.

My Lord,

Downing-street, 19th April 1847.

THE despatch of Earl Cathcart, dated the 27th August 1846 (No. 117), and your Lordship's despatches of the 24th and 26th of March 1847 (Nos. 15 and 23), have engaged the attention of Her Majesty's Government as far as has been possible within the very brief interval which has elapsed since my receipt of the two last of those despatches. I hope to address you more fully on the subjects to which they relate by the next mail; in the meantime I cannot allow the mail, which is fixed for to-day, to depart without acquainting you that in their solicitude to afford the utmost possible facility to the trade of Canada, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will by the next mail transmit to the officers of Her Majesty's Customs at Quebec, orders that so long as the existing suspension of the Navigation Acts, in respect of vessels engaged in the corn trade, shall remain in force, foreign vessels are to be permitted to go in ballast up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and thence to bring down corn or flour consigned to any port in the United Kingdom, on first obtaining a license for that purpose from the principal officer of Customs at Quebec.

Your Lordship will cause this decision to be communicated to the commercial bodies in Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GREY.

No. 13.
Earl Grey
to
Earl of Elgin,
19th April 1847.

Vide Parliamentary
Papers (H.C.), No. 119,
Sess. 1847, p. 14.

No. 14.

(No. 60.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-general the Right honourable the Earl of ELGIN to Earl GREY.

My Lord.

Government House, Montreal, 28th June 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a petition to the Queen, from the Board of Trade of the town of Hamilton, praying for alterations in the Navigation Laws.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

No. 14.
Earl of Elgin
to
Earl Grey,
28th June 1847.