
DESPATCHES

From Her Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies, and other documents relating to the Union of the British North American Colonies, laid by order of His Excellency the Governor General, before the Legislative Assembly by the Honorable Mr. ALLEYN, Secretary of the Province, on the 2nd day of February, 1859.

Legislative Assembly,
Toronto, 2nd day of February, 1859.

LONDON, 23d. OCTOBER, 1858.

SIR,

We have the honor to submit for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, that the Governor General of Canada acting under the advice of his responsible Advisers, has been pleased to recommend that the subject of a Federative Union of the Provinces of British North America, should form the subject of discussion by Delegates from each Province, to be appointed under the Orders of Her Majesty's Government; And we have been instructed to urge the importance of this step as well upon grounds peculiar to Canada, as from considerations affecting the interests of the other Colonies and of the whole Empire.

It is our duty to state that very grave difficulties now present themselves in conducting the Government of Canada, in such a manner as to shew due regard to the wishes of its numerous population. The Union of Lower with Upper Canada was based upon perfect equality being preserved between these Provinces, a condition the more necessary from the differences in their respective language, law and religion—and although there is now a large English population in Lower Canada, still these differences exist to an extent which prevents any perfect and complete assimilation of the views of the two Sections.

At the time of the Union Act, Lower Canada possessed a much larger population than Upper Canada, but this produced no difficulty in the Government of the United Province under that Act. Since that period, how-