

I think the proposal that the members of the Legislative Council should select their own President, is judicious and salutary, and I am prepared to urge it on Your Grace's favorable consideration. But I venture to think that Her Majesty's assent to this scheme, should be coupled with a provision that the President so chosen should be elected, either for life, or for a certain term of years not coinciding with that fixed for the duration of the House of Assembly.

It is very desirable that the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the proposal now submitted, should be made here at as early a period as is consistent with its due consideration by Your Grace.

I have &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G., &c. &c. &c.

No. 4.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor.

Downing Street, 12th December, 1861.

SIR,—I have had under my consideration your Despatch of the 11th November, enclosing a Minute of your Executive Council, expressive of their desire that the President of the Legislative Council of New Brunswick should, for the future, be elected from amongst its members, and should hold his appointment as in Canada, for the duration of the Parliament. Your Council also explain that it is not desired that the change should take effect until the office shall next become vacant.

I am of opinion that the right of selecting their President, is a privilege which it will be advantageous to confer upon the Legislative Council, and I shall be prepared to advise Her Majesty to give effect to the wishes of your Government in this respect.

But with regard to the tenure of the office, I own that it appears to me that this important post would gain in dignity if its duration were to be somewhat longer and more certain than that of a single Parliament. This object might be attained by making the appointment for four years, and until the end of the Parliament then existing. The effect of this would be, that the President, whilst he could not hold his office for less than four years, would usually retain it during two whole Parliaments.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

The Hon. Arthur H. Gordon, &c. &c.

No. 5.

The Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Fredericton, 1st September, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honor to enclose two Minutes of my Executive Council in Committee, upon the subject of the Presidency of the Legislative Council.

2. Your Grace will perceive that my Executive Council are willing to accept the suggestion of Your Grace, that the office should be held for four years certain, but are indisposed to view with favor its further retention until the close of the existing Parliament.

3. Although I retain unchanged the opinions I expressed in my Minute of the 3rd December 1861, and in my Despatch to Your Grace of 11th November, I am disposed, under all the circumstances, to recommend Your Grace to comply with the wishes of my Council, provided it be shewn that their wishes are in accordance with those of the Body most affected by the change—the Legislative Council itself;—and I would therefore request of Your Grace authority to carry the contemplated arrangement into effect, on the passage of a Resolution of the Legislative Council affirming its desirability.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR H. GORDON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G., &c. &c. &c.