

No. 4.
 Lord Glenelg
 to
 Sir F. B. Head,
 22d March 1836.

unavoidable that my Judgment on such Matters should for a considerable Time be suspended ; during any such Interval I anticipate great Relief and Support from the Reliance which I am happily entitled to repose in your Discretion. I shall however offer for your Solution any Doubts which may suggest themselves to me with perfect Unreserve, and without yielding to the Fear that you will ever misconstrue such Inquiries into an Expression of Distrust or of unavowed Disapprobation. In the Pursuit of the great Object which we have in common, you will, I am sure, agree with me, that our official Intercourse should be characterized both by an entire Frankness and by mutual Confidence, and that on either Side the most indulgent and favourable Construction should be given to every Expression which may be susceptible of more than One Meaning.

Reverting now to the Subject of the Despatches to which I have referred, the first Remark which occurs to me relates to the Manner in which you made your inaugural Address to the Two Houses of Provincial Legislature. It appears to have been delivered by you in Person in the Council Chamber, although the Session was still in progress. I presume that you considered this Peculiarity in the Mode of communicating with the Legislature as required and justified by the Novelty of the Occasion. I should entirely concur in that Opinion, if I were assured that neither of the Houses would complain of having been thus summoned into the Governor's Presence, as a Breach of their Privileges. I trust that no such Objection has been raised, or that if insisted on by any one, it will have been overruled by the good Sense and right Feeling of the Legislative Bodies.

Your Address to the Council and Assembly was judicious and well considered.

In proceeding to communicate a complete Transcript of your Instructions, instead of the Substance of them, you exercised a Discretion which I do not venture to disapprove. It is impossible to prescribe for the Guidance of an Officer placed in such a Situation as yours Rules of Conduct on Questions of this Kind, so inflexible as not to yield to Circumstances which could not be foreseen, or to the Pressure of Considerations which at this Distance could not be appreciated.

The Motives which prompted you to avow in the most public Manner, that in thus divulging the precise Terms of your Instructions you were acting in opposition to His Majesty's Orders, command my Respect, even though I am not quite satisfied of their Sufficiency. Though less consonant with the frank and open Bearing of your own Character, it might have been more judicious to avoid the direct Avowal of the Fact that you were disregarding an express Injunction of the King. In your Solicitude to take upon yourself the Responsibility which you have thought it right to incur, you may perhaps have, however unintentionally, contributed a little to impair the Respect due to the Royal Authority.

I do not disguise from you my Fears that the Publication of that Part of the Instructions to the Commissioners in Lower Canada, which was subjoined to your own may have involved the Earl of Gosford in much Embarrassment. I am not without an Apprehension, that the Effect of your having adopted a Course, different from that which Lord Gosford had previously taken, may have been to create a Feeling of Dissatisfaction on the Part of the Legislature of Lower Canada, which may seriously impede the successful Progress of his Mission. As it was in your Power to have communicated, on his Lordship's Responsibility, the Statement which he had himself conveyed to the Legislature of the Lower Province, of the Effect of those Passages of the Commissioners Instructions which were appended to your own, I do not perceive why you could not have accompanied a literal Transcript of the Body of your Instructions with the Epitome which Lord Gosford had already prepared and used of the Appendix to them.

The Address of the House of Assembly of the 5th of February placed you in a Position of Delicacy, from which you extricated yourself with Skill, Calmness, and Discretion.

I have thus addressed you in that Spirit of Frankness and Unreserve to which I referred in the Commencement of this Despatch. The respectful Expression of such Differences of Judgment as may arise between us may,
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