

excited expectations in the province which the refusal of a dissolution would disappoint.

I answer, that for whatever language Mr. Hume may have employed, that gentleman alone is responsible; and His Majesty's Government cannot be called upon to answer for any disappointment which they have had no share in producing. I further answer, that the advice to conciliate the Canadas by a constitutional system of government has been constantly borne in mind by my colleagues and myself, but that I know not what principle of the constitution calls upon us to advise His Majesty to oppose the decided voice of the House of Assembly, and the voice of the great apparent majority of the people. To retain their affections is the great object of His Majesty's policy, but how am I to suppose that this object would be promoted by thwarting the declared wishes of so preponderating a majority of them? The Royal assent to the Reform Bill in this kingdom proceeded on no principle which could be applied to the present question; and the reference to Lower Canada and the election law of that province of 1829, proves only how very imperfectly Mr. M'Kenzie is acquainted with the real history of that law.

I have thus pursued the two first papers laid before me by Mr. M'Kenzie in the most ample detail. If it should occur to you that I attach to them more importance than can fairly be claimed for the views of a single man, writing under the irritation of personal resentment, I would reply, that I have always felt it to be my duty to consider any representation which may be laid before me upon important public questions, with reference to the intrinsic merits of the questions themselves, rather than to any matter personal to the individual from whom they may immediately proceed; and in this case, I have received these documents from Mr. M'Kenzie, not merely as expressing his own opinion, but also as explanatory of the views of those who have deputed him to represent what they consider their grievances to His Majesty. To them the utmost possible respect is due; and although they have not succeeded in satisfying me that their opinions are right, and their views correct, I have been anxious at least to prove, that they had undergone the most careful scrutiny which it was in my power to bestow upon them. The only object which His Majesty's Government can have in view is the improvement and welfare of the province; and it is highly gratifying to them to believe, from all accounts which reach this country, that whilst upon some question of internal policy, and the state of the law in certain respects, differences of opinion may prevail, the prosperity of the province is rapidly advancing, in a manner calculated to draw closer the bonds of attachment by which the people are united to the mother country. It is the duty of His Majesty's Government at home, and of his representative in the province, to keep these great objects steadily in view, relying with confidence upon the good sense, the right feeling, and the warm loyalty of the people at large. It is by such a course that errors may best be amended, imperfections removed, abuses, if such there be, corrected, and all the sources of public good developed and enlarged.

Having written this despatch with a view to publicity, you have my authority to make it public in whatever manner you may think it most convenient.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(signed) GODERICH.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Major-general Sir John Colborne to Viscount Goderich; enclosing Addresses from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

MY LORD,

Upper Canada,  
York, 16 February 1833.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that being persuaded much inconvenience might arise from delaying to promulgate your Lordship's despatch of the 8th of November last, I took an early opportunity of laying this despatch, and the voluminous documents to which it referred, before the Legislative Council and House of Assembly.

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