

No. 4.
Sir John Colborne
to the Marquess of
Normanby,
19 August 1839.

operation with a working house of assembly, without experiencing the very great difficulty of forming new electoral divisions, a measure which would soon probably produce much clamour and discontent.

I should further recommend that the Governor or Viceroy be empowered to nominate and appoint a deputy-governor to reside at Toronto; and four of the executive council to transact the business of the districts to the westward of the midland district, under special instructions from the Governor or Viceroy.

That a deputy-commissioner of Crown lands, a deputy surveyor-general, and a deputy-registrar shall reside at Toronto to assist in transacting the business of the western districts.

And that the Governor or Viceroy be empowered to appoint a chairman of the quarter sessions for each district, with a fixed salary.

With these assistants, and deputed authority, the Governor would be able to rely, on an emergency, on a well-organised and efficient local power to maintain order, and at all times to carry on the duties of the remote districts.

With reference to the constitution of the Legislative Council, it should consist of not less than 25 members from each Province, eligible from the qualifications stated in the Bill now before the House of Commons, and also from the amount of their property. But few persons in these colonies will approve of striking at the independence of the Legislative Council, by enacting that the members are to be removed periodically.

The Legislative Council, composed of respectable and intelligent individuals interested in the welfare of the country, would correct with advantage the hasty legislation of a provincial assembly, and maintain its own popularity.

The scheme of forming new districts and electoral divisions, I am persuaded, would create difficulties and embarrassment. Individuals qualified to be elected to the proposed councils cannot be found in sufficient number; and the portion of the population now attached to the institutions of the mother country would prefer a more decidedly democratic form of government to the proposed alterations, which would render the constitution of the Province more complex, without conferring on them the advantages conveyed by the elective institutions of the adjoining states.

If it be considered expedient to grant to each county, township, or seignior, municipal rights and privileges, the provincial legislature would be found well disposed to carry into effect any acts with that view which might be recommended by the Governor. The townships of Upper Canada enjoy the privilege of electing their own officers; and this principle might be extended and granted to the seigniories.

In a new province I am convinced that the welfare and interests of the colony will be best consulted by allowing most of the rights to remain with the legislature of the province, which are now proposed to be given to the new districts.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Colborne.*

— No. 5. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable *C. Poulett Thomson* to
Lord *John Russell*.

No. 5.
Rt. hon. C. Poulett
Thomson to Lord
John Russell,
1 November 1839.

My Lord,

Government House, Montreal, 1 Nov. 1839.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that after several communications with Sir George Arthur, I have determined on proceeding to the Upper Province about the middle of this month, and I have requested Sir George Arthur, who left this city for Toronto yesterday, to summon the Provincial Legislature for Tuesday the 3d of December, when it is my intention to meet them, and open the Assembly in person.

I have been led to this determination, after the best consideration which I have been enabled to give to the circumstances, both of this and the other province, as well as to the object of my mission.

So