

The necessity of providing for the prosecution and completion of the public improvements undertaken with the sanction of Parliament will form a subject for your deliberation.

It affords me pleasure to be able to inform you, that the revenue of the past year has not fallen short of the Expectations which were entertained of its amount, and I rely on your willingness to make such provision for the public service as a due regard to the interests of the people may require.

Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

Since your last meeting, the ancient city of Quebec has been subjected to unexampled calamity in the successive fires which laid waste its buildings. Measures, rendered indispensable by the exigency, were adopted by my predecessor, which will be sent down for your approval.

The sympathy and benevolence of different portions of the British empire were roused into active exercise by the knowledge of the severe infliction with which it had pleased Divine Providence to permit the citizens of Quebec to be visited, and we have the strongest reasons for appreciating the noble generosity which has been exhibited, and which has proved how truly the inhabitants of Canada are felt by the people of Great Britain to be brethren and fellow-subjects of the same mighty nation. It will be for your wisdom to consider what further measures it may be proper to adopt for the restoration of what has been thus destroyed.

The last intelligence from the mother country indicates a most important change in the commercial policy of the empire. I had previously taken occasion to press upon Her Majesty's Government a due consideration of the effect that any contemplated alteration might have on the interests of Canada. But until we have a fuller exposition of the projected scheme which a few days will probably bring to us, it would be premature to anticipate that the claims of this province to a just measure of protection had been overlooked.

In these, and the various other subjects affecting the prosperity of Canada which may occupy you, I offer my hearty co-operation; and I earnestly trust that, under the direction of an all-wise Providence, we shall be enabled to pursue a course calculated to promote the best interests and to foster the rising growth of this rapidly advancing colony.

No. 2.

(No. 7.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Earl CATHCART, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable W. E. GLADSTONE.

Sir,

Government House, Montreal, 28 January 1846.

My attention having been very earnestly called by the members of the Executive Council of this province to the apprehensions they have been led to entertain, by discussions which have recently appeared in the English newspapers, pointing strongly to a change in the Corn Laws, I am induced at their earnest desire, even with no better foundation, to bring this subject under your consideration by the mail which leaves this night, as the opportunities for communication at this season are so infrequent, as to produce inconvenient delays.

The province of Canada is so vitally interested in the question, that it is a duty of the Executive of the province to urge on the consideration of Her Majesty's Ministers a full statement of the necessity of continuing a protection to the colonial trade in wheat and flour, and of the effect of any changes by which the protection hitherto given would be taken away.

The improvement of the internal communications by water, in Canada, was undertaken on the strength of the advantage of exporting to England our surplus wheat and flour by Quebec. Should no such advantage exist, the revenue of the province to be derived from the tolls would fail. The means of the province to pay principal and interest on the debt guaranteed by England,

No. 2.
Governor Earl
Cathcart to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
28 January 1846.