

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
25 May 1837.

including those who were drawn there for the performance of their religious duties; even with this assistance, the numbers at the meeting of the county of Richelieu, including men, women and children, fell very far short, I am informed, of the statement in "The Vindicator," viz. "upwards of 1,200 freeholders;" and the number at St. Laurent assembly, stated on the same authority to exceed 700, did not, from the accounts I have received from various quarters, exceed, including all descriptions of persons, 300 individuals; which is the more remarkable, from the meeting being held in the most populous county, and within a few miles of the city of Montreal; and I understand that Mr. La Fontaine, M. P. P. for Terrebonne, one of the most ultra of the party, who was to have addressed the meeting, declined from the paucity of hearers. Some other meetings have been held in different parts of the country which have proved failures, and others are in contemplation, which I have no doubt will share the same fate. All this tends to confirm me in the opinion I gave in a former letter, as to the probability of a change in public opinion, and that the Canadians were beginning to discover the real views of the ultras. I must, however, here observe, that the feeling against the Imperial Parliament, authorizing the taking of the money out of the chest, is very strong, and even those who reprobate the withholding of the supplies by the Assembly cannot refrain from an expression of disapprobation at this part of Lord John Russell's Resolutions. I cannot contemplate the present posture of affairs without considering how far it may be desirable, should the sentiment of distrust against the Papineau party, to which I have alluded, become more marked and decided, to dissolve the Parliament; and, indeed, my present impression inclines me to a dissolution; for a new Parliament would, I conceive, possess materials much more likely than the existing one, to appreciate any measures you might adopt for meeting the difficulties under which the Province is now labouring; and should such measures be of a conditional nature, that is, to be enforced in the event of a continued refusal on the part of the Assembly to permit the government to go on, it would have a still greater chance of acceptance, and thus the more obnoxious course of applying the money without the consent of the representatives here might become unnecessary. If, in addition to this, the Legislative Council should be at the same time liberalized, and an efficient executive council established, matters might get on smoothly. You may know of difficulties and impediments to this plan, of which I cannot see the force. Nothing is more erroneous, in my opinion, than the supposition that the French Canadians are a disloyal body. I have every reason to believe the contrary; I have not the slightest apprehension of any serious commotion coming out of these meetings, which, as far as regards the district of Montreal, are planned and concocted, and the resolutions framed by the same individuals, few in number, who it is understood are desirous of substituting a republican for the existing form of government.

I have, &c.

(signed) Gosford.

Enclosure 1, in No. 16.

MEETING of the County of *Montreal*.

On motion of Mr. Pascal Persillier Lachapelle, of Cote des Neiges, seconded by Mr. Joseph Binet, of St. Genevieve:

Resolved, 1. That the Resolutions submitted by Lord John Russell in the House of Commons, on the 6th of March last, in the name of the British ministry, destroy, *de facto*, the rights and liberties of the people of this province—rights and liberties which we regard as birthrights of the British subject, solemnly proclaimed by the Declaratory Act of the 18th Geo. 3.; that this violation is the more particularly odious, inasmuch as it is accompanied by the acknowledgment of the justice of the complaints of the country, as far as regards the vicious constitution of the Legislative Council, one of the principal causes which obliged the representation of this colony to refuse supplies, in order to obtain the redress of that grievance whence proceed all the abuses which oppress this province.

Encl. 1, in No. 16.