

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS IN CANADA.

No. 1.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE to the Duke of NEWCASTLE.

(No. 5.) Government House, Quebec, June 15, 1854.
MY LORD DUKE, (Received July 3, 1854.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the speech with which I opened the session of the Provincial Legislature on the 13th instant, together with a copy of the address in reply presented to me by the Legislative Council, and of my answer thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

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Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

DURING the recess the province has sustained, I regret to say, serious loss by fire in the destruction of the Houses of Parliament, and of the building which was subsequently secured for the temporary occupation of the Legislature. The best arrangements practicable under the circumstances have been made for your accommodation.

Her Majesty the Queen, our most Gracious Sovereign, having failed in her anxious and protracted endeavours to preserve for her people the blessings of peace, has felt herself called upon, by regard for an ally, the integrity and independence of whose empire have been recognized as essential to the peace of Europe, by the sympathies of her people with right against wrong, and by a desire to avert from her dominions most injurious consequences, to take up arms in conjunction with the Emperor of the French, for the defence of the Sultan. The manifestations of loyalty to the Sovereign and sympathy with the parent state, which have been so general throughout the province at this conjuncture, will, I am confident, be heartily responded to by the Legislature. The cordial co-operation of England and France in this war is well calculated to call forth the sympathies of the inhabitants of a country peopled mainly by the descendants of those two powerful empires.

Having during my recent visit to England been honoured by the Queen's command to endeavour to effect the settlement of various important questions bearing upon the interests of the British North American Provinces, which had been long pending between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, I proceeded to Washington, where after frank discussion with the authorities of the United States, I was enabled to conclude a treaty which now awaits ratification upon terms which it is my firm conviction will prove in the highest degree advantageous to the colonies generally, as well as to the United States; a measure to give effect to that treaty will be submitted for your approval.

I will communicate to you a Despatch which I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the addresses to the Queen from the two houses