

No. 19.
 Lord Glenelg
 to
 Sir F. B. Head,
 8th Sept. 1836.

On referring to the Despatches which I have addressed to you since your Arrival in the Province, you will perceive that it has been my good Fortune to have been able to approve every considerable Measure which you have adopted and reported to me. Some occasional and minor Differences of Opinion, may, indeed have subsisted between us, but not more important or numerous than such as must, in the Conduct of public Affairs, occur between those who claim for themselves, and respect in each other, the free Exercise of an independent Judgment; I am therefore happy to think that no Reason for withholding or delaying the Grant of a Baronetage, could be derived from a Consideration of the Publicity which would thus be given to His Majesty's favourable Estimate of your past Services.

But to the immediate Indulgence of the Wish to confer on you this Dignity an unexpected Impediment has very recently arisen. On the Day before the Prorogation of Parliament a Petition from Mr. Duncombe was presented to the House of Commons, in which that Gentleman, claiming for himself the Credit due to him as a Member of the Assembly of Upper Canada, and pledging his personal Honour to the Truth of his Statements, made various Allegations, impugning your Character and Conduct in respect to the recent Elections. Your Despatch of the 16th July had unfortunately not then reached me; but Sir George Grey, in his Place in the House, asserted in the strongest Terms his Disbelief of those Accusations, and his Opinion, that to prefer them in this Country, where they could not be subjected to any Inquiry, rather than in the Province itself, where their Truth might have been immediately investigated, was an Act of Injustice towards you. He pledged himself, however, that you should receive a Copy of the Petition, for such Explanation as you might be able and disposed to offer. In fulfilment of that Pledge a Copy of that Petition accompanies this Despatch.

I adopt the Opinions thus expressed by Sir George Grey. His Majesty's Ministers are convinced that it will be in your Power to repel every Part of Mr. Duncombe's Charges. This was indeed their Persuasion, even before the Arrival of your Despatch of the 16th July, which however, although of necessity only general in its Terms, is abundantly calculated to set at rest every Anxiety on the Subject.

If then it were necessary to refer only to personal Conviction, there could be no Reason for any Delay in granting what is so anxiously sought. But this is an Occasion on which it is not permitted to public Men to substitute the Persuasion, however confident, of their own Minds, for Proofs which would be equally satisfactory to others. A Charge, vague and general in its Nature, or proceeding from an anonymous or unworthy Antagonist, might have been passed over without Notice; but this is an Accusation, specific as well as grave, and preferred before the House of Commons by a Gentleman who has himself the Honour of a Seat in the Provincial Assembly. Such Imputations, advanced on such Authority, in such a Place, are entitled at least to that Degree of Respect which shall secure for them an attentive Hearing and a patient Inquiry.

It remains therefore that you should furnish me with your Answer to Mr. Duncombe's Petition; and I have His Majesty's Permission to assure you, that if, as I cannot doubt, that Answer shall prove complete and satisfactory, the Rank of Baronet will be immediately conferred upon you.

Having acknowledged the Receipt of your Despatch of the 23d of July, No. 60., in which you request Authority to retract the Assurance given by His Majesty respecting the future Appropriation of the Revenues of the Province, I cannot close this Communication without adverting to the general Policy which, under the present Aspect of Affairs in Upper Canada, His Majesty expects and requires you to pursue. As our official Intercourse is distinguished on your Side by a becoming Frankness in the Expression of your Opinions, so I am persuaded that I shall best consult your Wishes and manifest my Respect for your Character by addressing you with a corresponding Freedom from Reserve.

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