

Earl of Aberdeen  
to Earl Amherst.  
2 April 1835.

their native tongues in all places, and on all occasions where any public business, legislative, judicial, fiscal, or otherwise, may be transacted.

His Majesty utterly disclaims, for himself and for all persons acting under his authority, a policy so narrow and illiberal as that of compelling the numerical majority of the inhabitants of Lower Canada to employ in public documents and deliberations a language which they are not accustomed to use in the intercourse of private life.

I adopt, to their full extent, the views and the language of Lord Ripon respecting the impartial admission of the Canadians of French origin to their equal share in all public employments which may become vacant in the Province. This is a subject on which, from the nature of the case, it is barely possible that any definite and inflexible rule should be established. The Governor of the Province must exercise a discretion, governed by the nature of the office to be filled, and the qualifications, absolute or relative, of the different candidates. So much importance do I attach to the prevention of any partiality in the distribution of vacant offices, that if your Lordship should discover the means of laying down a precise rule for the guidance of those by whom the government is to be administered in future times, it will be cheerfully adopted and sanctioned by the King.

In the absence of any such specific regulation, I can only record anew, with the utmost earnestness, the reiterated injunction that every effort be made to place in public stations, for which they may be qualified, any Canadian gentlemen presenting themselves as candidates, until some approach to a just balance in this respect be established between the two races.

The accumulation of numerous, and especially of incompatible offices, in the same hands, is an abuse against which provision might be made by direct legislation; and to any law of that kind, if properly framed, your Lordship will not refuse His Majesty's assent.

Lord Ripon gave to the people of Lower Canada a pledge, conceived in the most forcible terms, of the desire of His Majesty's Government to countenance every judicious plan for the general diffusion of sound knowledge, both religious and literary, whether by elementary instruction, or by the establishment of colleges for pupils in a more advanced stage of education.

To the complaints which have been made of reluctance to redeem that pledge, your Lordship will, I trust, be able to give the most complete practical refutation. For giving effect to any judicious plan or reasonable recommendation of this nature, there is no branch of the Royal authority, legislative or administrative, nor any legitimate influence of the Crown, which your Lordship will not call into exercise. The settlement of some comprehensive scheme of general education will, I trust, remain as a lasting monument of your Lordship's mission to Lower Canada.

The power of reserving for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure Bills passed by the Council and Assembly having been expressly given by Parliament, cannot be withdrawn by any instructions, issued by the King or in His Majesty's name. It is alleged that recourse has been too frequently had to this mode of proceeding. Without expressing an opinion on that subject, I think it right to record, for the guidance of those to whom the administration of the government of Lower Canada may hereafter be committed, His Majesty's commands that a very cautious and abstemious use be made of this power.

I have thus adverted to the principal topics embraced in the 92 Resolutions of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, without attempting to pursue them all into minute detail; because, at this distance from the place, it is more important clearly to enounce the general principles by which His Majesty's Government are directed, than to prescribe the particular measures which they may desire to adopt or to sanction. Those principles are few and simple. They consist in maintaining inviolate the spirit of the Parliamentary Charter of 1791; in deprecating all unnecessary Parliamentary legislation respecting the internal affairs of Lower Canada; in transferring to the representatives of the people the utmost possible control over the produce of all the duties levied within the Province, and of all branches of the public revenue arising there; in discountenancing all favour shown to any one class of the inhabitants to the prejudice of the rest; and in making the prosperity of the Province, with the conciliation of the inhabitants to each other and to this kingdom, the only objects to be borne in view in the administration of the government of that part of His Majesty's dominions.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Aberdeen.*