

Lunæ, 28^a die Aprilis, 1834.

J. N. FAZAKERLEY, ESQUIRE,

IN THE CHAIR.

Frederick Elliot, Esq. called in ; and Examined.

7. DO you produce further Despatches from the Colonial Office?—I do. The first Despatch I produce is from the Earl of Ripon to Lord Aylmer.

*Frederick Elliot,
Esq.*

8. When did the Earl of Ripon come into office?—On the 22d of November 1830.

28 April 1834.

9. When did Lord Aylmer succeed Sir James Kempt?—In October 1830.

[The following Despatches were then read.]

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Viscount Goderich to Lord Aylmer,
dated Downing-street, 1st December 1830.

My Lord,

It is not without great regret and reluctance that I suffer the present mail to depart without conveying to your Lordship final instructions for settling the question of the revenue levied in the Province of Lower Canada, under the Act of the 14th Geo. 3, c. 88.

It had been the full intention of my predecessor in this office to have brought the whole subject before Parliament during the last Session ; but circumstances, arising out of the demise of his late Majesty, prevented Sir George Murray from executing his purpose. The duty of settling a point of so much importance having now devolved upon me, I feel called upon to state, that the delay, as far as I am concerned, has been occasioned solely by the shortness of the time which has elapsed since my appointment to this department, and which has prevented me from bringing the subject before His Majesty's Government, some of whom are absent in consequence of their re-election.

I can, however, assure you that I am deeply impressed with the necessity of an immediate and satisfactory adjustment of this perplexing question, and it is gratifying to me to feel convinced that I shall soon be able to forward to you such instructions as may enable you to accomplish the great object, not only of restoring a good understanding with the Legislature, but of preventing the chance of future collision upon this subject.

Under these circumstances of unavoidable, though, I trust, temporary delay, it will be proper for you, at the opening of the approaching Session, to invite the Legislature to make some provisional arrangement for meeting the necessary expenditure of the Government, assuring them at the same time of His Majesty's earnest desire to see the financial concerns of the Province placed, without loss of time, upon a footing which may be at once compatible with the exigencies of the public service, and with the wishes and feelings of His Majesty's faithful subjects in Lower Canada.

The Legislature may further be assured, that His Majesty has no desire to call upon them for any supplies beyond such as may, upon full consideration, be deemed essential, His Majesty having no object more at heart than the comfort, the prosperity and the happiness of a people who are endeared to him by many ties, and whose growing importance, in all the relations of the British empire, His Majesty fully appreciates.

In bringing these matters before the Legislature at the opening of the Session, I think you cannot pursue a better course in general than that adopted by your predecessor. But there is one point which is of considerable difficulty, and might, unless duly attended to, prevent the Legislature from meeting your proposition in that conciliatory spirit which is upon every account so necessary to the successful administration of your government. I allude to those votes which have, for the last two years, been rejected by the Assembly, and which, having been sanctioned by Treasury warrants, are now in arrear. Judging from the communications made to this department by your predecessor, it would seem to be highly improbable that the Legislative Assembly could be now induced to vote what they have hitherto persisted in refusing ; and it is impossible to deny, that with respect to some of those items of expense, that body must be competent judges of the degree to which they are necessary. Unless, therefore, you should have reason to expect, that upon the final settlement of the disputed question of the revenue the Legislature might be prepared to reconsider their former decisions, I do not think that it would be consistent with the dignity of His Majesty's Government in Lower Canada to expose itself to the risk of a renewed rejection of those votes.

As, however, it is necessary that something definitive should be settled with respect to the rejected items, I shall, in a separate Despatch, convey to you my suggestions as to what may be the best mode of disposing of them.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Goderich.*