

CANADA.

No. 5.

(No. 20.)

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE to EARL
CATHCART.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, February 3, 1846.

I HAVE laid before the Queen the joint Address of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Canada, on the subject of the alteration of the Act for the re-union of Canada, so far as respects the use of the French language. I have also laid before the Queen your despatch of the 8th March, 1845, No. 227, which transmits the above Address.

From regard to the wishes thus expressed by her loyal subjects, Her Majesty is inclined to entertain the prayer of that Address, and authorises you to make a communication accordingly to the legislative bodies at the opening of the Session.

Inasmuch, however, as it would not be practicable to obtain from Parliament with convenience the change which is required in the Act of Re-Union, so early as to take effect upon the proceedings of the coming Session in Canada, and as it is obviously far from desirable that reiterated applications should be made for the alteration of a constitutional statute of so much importance, her Majesty's Government do not propose to take any step of that nature until I shall have become acquainted with the proceedings of the provincial Legislature, and shall have learned whether they may give occasion for inserting in one and the same amending Bill, together with a provision relating to the exclusive use of the English language, another modification of the provisions of the Act of Re-Union, which might possibly become necessary under the powers conveyed to your Lordship in my Despatch of this date relating to the Civil List.

The Earl Cathcart,
&c. &c

(Signed)

I have, &c.,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

No. 6.

(No. 22.)

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Honourable the EARL of ELGIN and
KINCARDINE to EARL GREY.

Government House, Montreal, March 2, 1848.

(Received March 27, 1848.)

MY LORD,

I BEG leave to refer to the correspondence noted in the margin respecting the joint address of the Legislative Council and Assembly of this province praying for the repeal of the 41st clause of the Act of Union relating to the French language.

Mr. Gladstone, in conveying to the two Houses her Majesty's answer to this address, stated that her Majesty's Government would take no steps for procuring the requisite amendment in the Union Act until they should be apprised of the further alterations that would be required in it by the proceedings which it was anticipated would take place in the Canadian legislature on the subject of the Civil List, in order that both measures might be included in one and the same amending Bill.

The Imperial Parliament has since, on the solicitation of this legislature, passed an Act relating to the Civil List, while the pledge given by her Majesty's Government on the subject of the French language appears to have been overlooked. Under these circumstances I bring the subject under your notice, as it is one on which a very strong and general feeling exists here.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ELGIN and KINCARDINE.

The Right Honourable Earl Grey,

&c.

&c.

Lord Metcalfe,
March 8, 1845.
Lord Cathcart,
December 19, 1845.
Mr. Gladstone,
February 3, 1846.