

it cannot, in our opinion, be wise or consistent with sound policy to discourage the importation of works promoting useful information, originally written and published in foreign countries:

That, in consequence of the peculiar situation and peculiar circumstances of this country, a very large portion of the inhabitants speak the French language, and that, for this reason, the standard works required by them in the three great departments of religion, literature, and law, are French, and must be obtained from France.

We therefore humbly pray that Your Majesty will be pleased to adopt such measures as may in Your wisdom be deemed expedient to remove the discouragement arising from the duties imposed by the Imperial Act on works of the class above mentioned, and calculated to promote the dissemination of important knowledge; and we beg to assure Your Majesty of our conviction that in complying with this prayer, Your Majesty will increase the happiness and prosperity of Your Majesty's subjects in this province.

Legislative Assembly Hall, Kingston,  
10 November 1843.

(signed) *Austin Cuillier*,  
Speaker.

— No. 2. —

(No. 143.)

No. 2.  
Lord Stanley to  
Right Hon. Sir C.  
T. Metcalfe, 21  
Dec. 1843.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Stanley* to the Right Hon. Sir *C. T. Metcalfe*,  
Bart. G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 21 December 1843.

I HAVE laid before The Queen the Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Assembly of Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled, dated the 10th November 1843, praying "that Her Majesty will be pleased to adopt such measures as may in Her wisdom be deemed expedient to remove the discouragement arising from the duties imposed by the Imperial Act on works of the class above mentioned\*, and calculated to promote the dissemination of important knowledge."

The Queen's solicitude for the general welfare of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects, and especially for the diffusion of useful knowledge among all classes of the inhabitants of the Province, would have recommended this subject to the Queen's most careful attention, even had it not been brought under Her notice with all the authority derived from the opinion and wishes of the House of Assembly. But Her Majesty finds that the Imperial import duty leviable in Canada on foreign books originally printed and published in foreign countries, is the same as on all other manufactures of paper; that is, seven per cent. *ad valorem*, a duty imposed in the fifth & sixth year of Her Majesty's reign, in substitution for a previous duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem*. If any evidence has been collected by the Assembly to show that this low rate of duty materially impedes the introduction into the province of original French works from France, the Queen, on being placed in possession of that evidence, will lose no time in considering how the evil may be best corrected. But in the absence of any such information, Her Majesty being unapprised of the extent or of the sources of the mischief, is not able to judge by what means it may be most effectually and properly remedied.

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

\* French works on religion, literature, and law.