

## CANADA, CANAL COMMUNICATION.

CORRESPONDENCE relative to the CANAL COMMUNICATION  
in Canada.

No. 1.—LETTER from *Henry Goulburn, Esq.* to *George Harrison, Esq.*  
&c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Downing Street, 26th June 1817.

I AM directed by Earl Bathurst to transmit to you the copy of a letter from Lieutenant General Sir John Sherbrooke, dated the 1st of April last, stating the necessity of sending out a competent civil engineer, to superintend the execution of the proposed Canal between Montreal and La Chine, and I am to request you will lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and acquaint their Lordships, that as there appears every reason to believe that the remaining sums necessary for the completion of this most important work will be either voted by the Colonial Assembly, or subscribed in the province by private individuals, Lord Bathurst thinks it advisable that it should be carried on in a manner to ensure the public advantages which cannot fail to result from its proper execution, and therefore earnestly recommends to their Lordships that they will be pleased to authorize the expense of sending out a competent civil engineer, to superintend the undertaking during such a period as may be necessary to ensure its successful progress.

Correspondence  
relative to the  
Canal Communi-  
cation in Canada.

I am, &c. &c.

(signed)

*Henry Goulburn.*

No. 2.—LETTER from Lieutenant General Sir *John Sherbrooke* to the  
Right Hon. Earl *Bathurst*, &c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

Quebec, 1st April 1817.

UPON the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, No. 54, of the 7th of December, with its inclosure, I lost no time, in obtaining all the information in my power on the subject of Lieutenant Considine's Plan for the better navigation of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and La Chine, the result of which is, that in the opinion of the most competent judges, the water-wheels proposed by Mr. Considine could not, with any chance of success, be applied in that part of the river, particularly on account of the rise and fall of the water, and the variation of the course which must be taken by boats in consequence.

The immense bodies of ice occasionally floating down the river present also a most formidable obstacle to the plan.

I transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Report made hereupon by Captain Romilly, an officer of experience in the Royal Engineers stationed at Montreal, to whom, by my desire, the commanding royal engineer forwarded Mr. Considine's proposal.

With respect to the proposed Canal between Montreal and La Chine, which I cannot but consider as highly important and desirable, I avail myself of this opportunity of mentioning, that provided a civil engineer is sent out from England to superintend its execution, without which indeed it would be impracticable to engage in it, I have little doubt, should you wish it, that the House of Assembly of Lower Canada would, in their next session, vote a further sum, in addition to the £. 25,000. already appropriated by them in aid of this service.

No. 3.