

was remarkably exhibited in the ninety-two resolutions passed by the House of Assembly on the 23d February 1834. These resolutions were referred to a Committee of the House of Commons on the 25th April, and occupied their attention for a considerable time. On the 3d July the Committee closed their labours with a report, in which they did full justice to the anxiety of the Home Government to carry into execution the suggestions of the Select Committee of 1828, and declared that the endeavours of the Government to that end had been unremitting, and guided in all cases by a desire to promote the interests of the Province. The Committee delivered no opinion upon the subject-matter of any one of the resolutions submitted to their consideration; but lamented that mutual misconception appeared to prevail, which they hoped might be removed; and finally expressed their persuasion that the practical measures for the future administration of the affairs of Lower Canada might best be left to the consideration of the Government, who were responsible for their adoption and execution.

Lord Aberdeen to
Lord Aylmer.
14 February 1835.

From that period up to the present day I do not find that any measures have been undertaken in compliance with the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons. On the 15th of November, the day on which the dissolution of the late Administration took place, your Lordship was apprized by Mr. Spring Rice that he was prepared to transmit very full instructions on the various important points upon which it was essential for your Lordship to be informed on the approaching meeting of the Assembly of Lower Canada; but in consequence of the event which had then occurred he was prevented from making any further communication. Not being aware of the nature and purport of these contemplated instructions, your Lordship will see that I have thus been deprived of the fruits of the matured reflection of my predecessor; and that on my own accession to office I find this complicated question very much in the same situation in which it was left by the Committee of the House of Commons on the 3d of July; with this difference, however, that the difficulties of its solution have been materially aggravated by the additional delay of six months.

In adverting to this delay, your Lordship will not understand that it is with the view of imputing blame to any one, but simply for the purpose of expressing my regret that a crisis should now have arrived in which a prompt decision is rendered indispensable, and that it must be taken at a moment and under circumstances when there exists a peculiar necessity for the most careful review of all that has passed, and for the most deliberate reflection on the consequences of any step that may be adopted.

The painful situation in which your Lordship has long been placed, and the personal relation in which you have been made to stand towards the House of Assembly, form no light addition to the embarrassments which obstruct the successful termination of the question at issue. It is due, however, to your Lordship to state, that from your first assumption of the Government of Lower Canada, my predecessors in the department over which I now preside have signified their general approbation of the conduct you have pursued in the administration of the affairs of that Province. With satisfaction I add, that from an examination of your Lordship's official correspondence, commencing at the period referred to, I can see no reason to dissent from the accuracy of these opinions. At the same time it must be obvious that the exasperated feelings so prevalent in the Assembly, and the alienation of that branch of the Canadian Legislature from the Executive Government, have rendered your Lordship's position so extremely difficult as even to forbid the hope that you would be enabled to employ, with any good effect, the words of conciliation and peace.

Looking, then, at the manner of dealing with the whole of this subject, and bearing in mind the circumstances to which I have already adverted, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that the exigencies of the case demand some more decisive and expeditious mode of proceeding than is consistent with an ordinary and regular correspondence. Your Lordship's sentiments have been more than once expressed to the same effect. The King has therefore been humbly advised to select an individual possessing His Majesty's entire confidence, who has the advantage of being unconnected with past Canadian politics, and has had the opportunity, by recent personal communication with the members of His Majesty's Government, of ascertaining their views and intentions more fully and unreservedly than could be possible by means of written statements. This individual, in the capacity of His Majesty's Royal Commissioner, will repair to Lower Canada, fully instructed to examine, and, if possible, to terminate the various points of discussion, in the hope of composing all those differences which have so long agitated the Province, and which have deeply afflicted His Majesty's loyal subjects.

Without attempting to give your Lordship even an outline of the instructions of which His Majesty's Extraordinary Commissioner will be the bearer, it may be sufficient to inform you that his mission will not be so much for the purpose of promulgating any new principles of government, as of carrying into full effect that system of liberality and justice towards the people of Canada, which His Majesty has long since adopted, and which a Committee of the House of Commons recently declared had characterized the policy and conduct of all those by whom the affairs of this kingdom have been administered during the last six years. Although the result which has hitherto attended these efforts might perhaps render our hopes of the future less sanguine, it will not diminish the desire or the determination of the King to satisfy all the just claims and expectations of His Canadian subjects. They will find that His Majesty is unwearied in his endeavours to establish "an impartial, conciliatory, and constitutional Government in Canada." For this end, it will be the object of His Majesty to renew an inquiry into every alleged grievance, to examine every cause of complaint, and to apply a remedy to every abuse that may still be found to prevail; for this end there is no sacrifice he would not cheerfully make, which should be compatible with the fundamental