

# From The Right Honourable C. Poulett Thomson.

(No. 1.)

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. C. POULETT THOMSON to  
Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

MY LORD,

Quebec, 19th October, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Pique anchored under the walls of Québec on Thursday, the 17th instant, but, being anxious to wait for the arrival of Sir John Colborne from Montreal, I was not enabled to land until to-day, when I opened the Royal Commissions and took the usual oaths of office.

Immediately after my investiture I issued the Proclamation of which I have the honour to enclose a copy.

I have received an Address from the magistrates of this district, of which, as well as of my answer, I transmit copies.

I have, &amp;c.

C. POULETT THOMSON.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,  
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed)

Enclosure 1 in No. 28.

Province of Lower Canada.]

[C. POULETT THOMSON.

Enclosure No. 1.

By his Excellency the Right Honourable Charles Poulett Thomson, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the provinces of Lower Canada and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

## A Proclamation.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint me to be Governor-General of British North America, I have this day assumed the administration of that office. In the exercise of this high trust it will be my desire no less than my duty to promote to the utmost of my power the welfare of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects. To reconcile existing differences; to apply a remedy to proved grievances; to extend and protect the trade, and enlarge the resources of the colonies intrusted to my charge; above all, to promote whatever may bind them to the Mother Country by increased ties of interest and affection, will be my first and most anxious endeavour. In the pursuit of these objects I shall ever be ready to listen to the representation of all, whilst I shall unhesitatingly exercise the powers confided to me to repress disorder, to uphold the law, and to maintain tranquillity.

The suspension of the constitution in Lower Canada places in the hands of the Executive Government powers of an extraordinary nature, the necessity for which is deeply to be deplored, and which can be justified only by the circumstances of the province. One principal object of my mission will be to determine in what manner, and at what time, this state of things may most safely be brought to a close, and the full benefits of British institutions be restored to Her Majesty's Lower Canadian subjects.

In Upper Canada the loyalty and courage of the inhabitants have preserved her constitution, and maintained the powers of the law through difficulties of the most trying nature. Their exertions during the last two years have been viewed by Her Majesty with the highest satisfaction; and have commanded the applause and admiration of all classes in the Mother Country. It would appear, however, that in that province causes of embarrassment are not wanting. Her trade is said to be cramped, her finances deranged, and the development of her resources impeded.

To devise measures by which these evils may be removed in a manner satisfactory to the inhabitants, will be one of the objects to engage my earliest attention, and I shall rely upon the patriotism of the people, and the wisdom of the legislature, to aid me in the effort.

Animated by the most anxious desire to promote the welfare of these important provinces, to uphold the rights of the crown, by whose confidence I have been honoured, and to advance the true interest of the people to whom I am sent, I confidently call on all those to whom the prosperity of British North America is dear, to unite with me in the work which I have undertaken, and, laying aside all minor considerations, to afford me that assistance and co-operation which can alone enable me to bring my task to a successful issue.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at the Castle of Saint Lewis, in the city of Québec, in the said province of Lower Canada, the nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and in the third year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command.

(Signed)

T. W. C. MURDOCH,

Chief Secretary.

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Right Hon.  
C. P. Thomson  
to Lord John Russell.  
19th Oct. 1839.

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