

And whereas, while many advantages may be secured by such a Union, either of all these Provinces or of a portion of them, many and serious obstacles are presented which can only be overcome by mutual consultation of the leading men of the Colonies, and by free communication with the Imperial Government; therefore

Resolved, That His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor be respectfully requested to put himself in communication with His Grace the Colonial Secretary, and His Excellency the Governor General, and the Lieutenant Governors of the other North American Provinces, in order to ascertain the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and the opinions of the other Colonies, with a view to an enlightened consideration of a question involving the highest interests, and upon which the public mind in all the Provinces ought to be set at rest.

Which Resolution being seconded and put, was agreed to by the House.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

The Duke of Newcastle to the Earl of Mulgrave.

Downing Street, 6th July, 1862.

MY LORD,—I have duly received Your Lordship's Despatch of the 21st of May, accompanied by a Copy of a Resolution which was passed in the House of Assembly on the 15th April 1861, relative to an amalgamation of part or all of the British Provinces in North America. The Resolution points out that the question might be considered either of a distinct Union of the Maritime Provinces, or of a general Union of them with Canada, and suggests that it might be desirable, upon so important a subject, to ascertain the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and to promote a consultation between the leading men of the Colonies.

Your Lordship explains that for various reasons your Government were of opinion that it would be inexpedient to act on this Resolution last year, but that they now wish it to be brought under consideration. No one can be insensible to the importance of the two measures which are alluded to, and I am far from considering that they do not form a very proper subject for calm deliberation. They are, however, of a nature which renders it especially fit that if either of them be proposed for adoption, it should emanate in the first instance from the Provinces, and should be concurred in by all of them which it would affect. I should see no objection to any consultation on the subject amongst the leading members of the Governments concerned; but whatever the result of such consultation might be, the most satisfactory mode of testing the opinion of the people of British North America, would probably be by means of Resolution or Address, proposed in the Legislature of each Province by its own Government.

Beyond this expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the preliminary steps which might be taken towards the decision of this great question, I am not prepared to announce any course of policy upon an invitation proceeding from one only of the British North American Provinces, and contained in a Resolution of so general and vague a character as that which you have transmitted to me. But if a Union, either partial or complete, should hereafter be proposed, with the concurrence of all the Provinces to be united, I am sure that the matter would be weighed in this Country, both by the public, by Parliament, and by Her Majesty's Government, with no other feeling than an anxiety to discern and to promote any course which might be the most conducive to the prosperity, the strength, and the harmony of all the British communities in North America.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

Lieut. Governor the Earl of Mulgrave, &c. &c.

III. ADMISSION INTO FRENCH PORTS OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN SHIPS.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Lieutenant Governor.

Downing Street, 28th June, 1862.

SIR,—Certain privileges relating to the admission into French Ports, of Canadian-built Ships, having been recently granted to that Province, I have the honor to acquaint you that the question of conceding similar privileges to Vessels built in any of Her Majesty's North American Provinces, is now under the consideration of the French Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

Lieut. Governor, Honorable Arthur H. Gordon