

the colony. I trust, also, that you will be enabled to appeal to the alterations which may have been made in the composition of the council, as a proof of the sincerity with which his Majesty's Government are disposed to carry into effect the intentions which they have expressed on this head. With reference, however, to this particular branch of the subject, I must defer any more explicit observations until I shall have received from your Lordship the communication which you have given me reason to expect at an early period, and which, I trust, I shall receive in ample time to enable me to address you further respecting it before the meeting of the Legislature. There are other topics which will readily suggest themselves to your own mind as fit to be introduced into your communication to the Legislature on its meeting; and I may probably have occasion to refer to this subject in the interval which must elapse before the commencement of the session. I have, however, felt it my duty to give you this general outline of the nature of the speech with which I think it will be desirable that you should address them in his Majesty's name.

It may perhaps be necessary that I should also advert to three contingencies, for either of which your Lordship should be prepared: First. In pursuance of the Resolution with which they separated, the House of Assembly may refuse to meet in sufficient numbers for the transaction of business, or having met, to proceed to business, or they may resume their legislative duties in the same spirit of resistance which they formerly manifested. Secondly. The House may proceed to business without any avowed spirit of resistance, but their subsequent proceedings may afford convincing evidence of an intention to postpone to an indefinite or remote period a decision on the application which you will have submitted to them for payment of the arrears. Thirdly. The House may, at their meeting, give proof of a more conciliatory disposition, and may justify the hope that the continuance of the session will issue in the satisfactory adjustment of the questions in debate.

In the first or the second of these events, it will be alike your duty to proceed to a prorogation. Unfortunate as the necessity of adopting that measure may be, it is yet of light moment compared with that of appearing to fail in decision and fixedness of purpose in the present posture of affairs in Lower Canada. Your Lordship will pursue whatever course may seem best adapted to render it known to the parties more immediately concerned, that if this effort to obtain the co-operation of the Assembly shall fail, the powers with which you may be intrusted by Parliament will infallibly be brought into exercise.

If, on the other hand, the House shall meet in such a spirit as to justify the hope of a satisfactory termination of the questions in debate, and should, within a reasonable time, provide for the payment of the arrears, his Majesty's Government would most sincerely share in the satisfaction which I am convinced your Lordship would feel in the necessity having been happily removed for the adoption of that extreme and ultimate remedy which the Parliamentary Resolutions contemplate.

It is further necessary that your Lordship should be prepared to act decisively regarding the demand which the Assembly will, of course, renew for their contingent expenses, if they should proceed to the despatch of public business. Under ordinary circumstances, I should regard the admission of this demand as hardly capable of debate. But in the present posture of affairs, it must be admitted cautiously, and not without due reserve. I cannot admit that the Government would be justified, far less that it is bound to give its sanction to the unlimited issue of public funds for the contingencies of the House of Assembly, while that House refuses or fails to provide for any other of the ordinary civil expenditure of the Province. To any application of this nature, therefore, the answer should in substance be, an avowal of your willingness to issue a moderate sum for the immediate expenditure of the House. Further supplies for this purpose should only be issued from time to time, as the exigencies of the public service may demand. It would be right also to consider whether the House should not be required to render an account of the expenditure of the sums already issued for contingencies. There are not wanting motives, at once weighty and obvious, for checking any mismanagement of these funds; while, on the other hand, to withhold them, so as to impede the free exercise of the functions of the House of Assembly, would be at once useless and unjustifiable.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*