

—No. 1.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Sir *F. B. Head*, K.C.H., to Lord *Glenelg*.

No. 1.

My Lord,

Toronto, Upper Canada, 4 February 1837.

Despatch from  
Sir F. B. Head  
to Lord Glenelg.

I AM at last enabled to reply to the following communications, which I have had the honour to receive from your Lordship:—

1. Despatch, No. 95, of the 8th September 1836, enclosing to me a copy of Dr. Duncombe's petition to the House of Commons, as presented by Mr. Hume on the 19th August last.

2. Despatch, No. 96, of the 12th September 1836, enclosing to me a copy of a correspondence between Dr. Duncombe and the Colonial Office, on the subject of the late elections in Upper Canada, as also a copy of a letter on the same subject, addressed to Sir George Grey by Mr. Hume.

3. Despatch, No. 99, of the 22d September 1836, enclosing to me a copy of a letter addressed to your Lordship by Dr. Duncombe, "detailing the charges respecting Sir F. Head's conduct during the recent elections in Upper Canada."

4. Despatch, No. 105, of the 31st October 1836, transmitting to me a copy of a letter addressed to Lord Melbourne by Mr. Hume, who, enclosing a memorial to be presented to His Majesty respecting what he terms "the extraordinary proceedings of Sir Francis Head during the late general election," states, "It is with deep regret I complain of the conduct of Lord Glenelg to the agents of the Reformers from Upper Canada, in having refused to give an interview either to Mr. Baldwin, a member of the late Executive Council, or to Dr. Charles Duncombe, member for Oxford, in the New House of Assembly, although they came 4,000 miles, deputed by their colleagues, on purpose to explain to His Majesty's Government the conduct of Sir Francis Head, the Lieutenant-Governor, and of the public officers in that Province. I most earnestly requested his Lordship to grant an audience to the gentlemen as they had requested, but he refused those applications, and thereby behaved to them in a manner which I do greatly regret."

Before I proceed to reply to the serious accusations which have been thus made against me by Dr. Duncombe, a member of the House of Assembly of this Province, as also by Mr. Joseph Hume, a member for Middlesex, in the Imperial Parliament, I consider it my duty to record the feelings of gratitude, as well as of respect, which I entertain towards your Lordship for having directed your under secretary to reply to Dr. Duncombe, on the 21st of September last, as follows:—

"Lord Glenelg directs me to state for your information, that he proposes to avail himself of the earliest opportunity for transmitting a copy of that letter to Sir F. B. Head, for such explanations as that officer may be able to give respecting the matters laid by you to his charge. In the meantime his Lordship will, of course, suspend his opinion on the subject. He directs me, however, to state, that he cannot receive accusations of such a nature against a public officer of high and unblemished character, without recording his persuasion that they will be found susceptible of a satisfactory answer. With reference to your protest against Lord Glenelg's decision to carry on his communications with you, not in personal interviews but in writing, his Lordship directs me to observe, that the obligation of acting with strict impartiality towards all persons with whom he is brought into official intercourse, would have forbidden him to receive, in mere conversation, charges impugning the honour and reputation of any man, however humble his station in life; nor can his Lordship think that, as a public accuser of the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, you are justly entitled to complain that you have been required to prefer your charges in that form in which alone they could be expressed with precision, and subjected to the test of an exact inquiry."

On the receipt of your Lordship's despatches, which I have referred to, I deemed it advisable to lay them, without loss of time, before the Assembly, and accordingly on the day that the House replied to my opening Speech from the Throne, I transmitted to it the following message:—