

COPY of the INSTRUCTIONS given to the Earl of Gosford, and the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the GRIEVANCES complained of in *Lower Canada* :— also, COPY of the INSTRUCTIONS given to Sir F. B. Head, Lieutenant-Governor of *Upper Canada*.

— No. 1: —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Glenelg to the Earl of Gosford, the Right Hon. Sir C. E. Grey and Sir G. Gipps, His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry in *Lower Canada*.

No. 1.

Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Commissioners of Inquiry, 17 July 1835.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 17 July 1835.

1. I HAVE the honour of transmitting to you a Commission under the Great Seal, by which the King has been pleased to appoint you to be His Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry in the Province of Lower Canada.

2. In obedience to His Majesty's commands, I now proceed to put you in possession of the instructions by which it is His Majesty's pleasure that you should be guided in the discharge of the trust committed to you. The personal acquaintance which His Majesty possesses with the important part of his dominions in which your inquiries are to be prosecuted, and the peculiar interest which he has ever felt in the prosperity of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, have induced the King to bestow upon the mission with which he has pleased to entrust you a more than common measure of his attention.

3. A correct acquaintance with the history of Lower Canada, especially during the last 20 years, is indispensable to the accomplishment of the duties with which you are charged. I do not, however, propose to engage in any consecutive review, far less in any narration of past events. Such an addition to the length of my present communication would be at once inconvenient and unnecessary.

4. From documents, which will be accessible to you both in this country and in Lower Canada, you will be able to elicit the most ample information respecting all occurrences, explanatory or illustrative of the following instructions. I would especially refer you to the Journals of the Legislative Council and of the House of Assembly, and the many valuable Reports constituting the Annual Supplement to those volumes; to the Reports of the House of Commons' Committees on Canadian Affairs in 1828 and 1834; to the evidence taken before the former of those Committees, and to the correspondence between my predecessors in this department and the successive governors of the province. In the following pages, a familiarity with all the more important facts to be collected from this series of documents is presupposed. I have the honour herewith to enclose, for your information, copies of various documents connected with this subject, of which you might not be able readily to procure transcripts in the province, and of which a list will be found in the margin.

No. 1. Petition from the Inhabitants of Lower Canada, 5 Feb. 1835.

No. 2. Ditto, District of Montreal, 1835.

No. 3. Ditto, House of Assembly of Lower Canada to the House of Commons, Dec. 1834.

Report of a Committee of the House of Commons on Canada, 1828.—*Vide* Parliamentary Papers, No. 569, Session

Ditto ditto, 1834.—*Vide* Parl. Papers, No. 449, Session

No. 4. Letter from Mr. Neilson, 17 June 1835.

No. 5. Ditto ditto, 10 July 1835.

No. 6. Ditto Mr. Walker, 17 June 1835.

No. 7. Minute, No. 2, in Lord Aberdeen's Despatch to Lord Amherst, of 2 April 1835.

5. Before I approach more closely to the discussion of the questions which will principally engage your attention, it is necessary that I should explain the motives by which His Majesty has been induced to issue the commission which you are about to execute.

6. The dissensions which commenced in Lower Canada in the year 1820, have since that time, with some transient intermissions, been continually increasing in violence and animosity. They have at length advanced to such a height as not only to invade the peace of society, but nearly to paralyse the activity of the executive government, threatening with the most fatal confusion a country exempt beyond the common lot of nations from the influence of the ordinary causes of social evil.

7. This state of affairs in a portion of the King's dominions so valuable, and otherwise so prosperous, has engaged His Majesty's most anxious and deliberate attention. To heal the disorders by which the province is distracted, and to