

(COPY.) CANADA, No. 2.

Copy to the Finance Minister Dec. 30th, 1861.

DOWNING STREET,

5th November, 1861.

MY LORD,—

I think it right to inform you that I have not overlooked the important subject of the Minister of the Executive Council, forwarded to me by Sir E. Head in his despatch No. 2 of the 2nd of January, relative to the establishment of a reciprocal free trade between the British Provinces of North America, and an assimilation of their tariffs. The Government of Canada thought it desirable to make an attempt to accomplish these ends, and wished to know whether there would be any objection on the part of the Imperial Government.

I have the honor to inform you that Her Majesty's Government feel no wish to offer an obstacle to any endeavor which may be made by the respective Provincial Governments to bring about a free commercial intercourse between the North American Provinces.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

NEWCASTLE.