

By the Honorable Mr. *Hope*,—Of *Alexander Melville Bell*, and others, of the Provinces of *Ontario* and *Quebec*.

The Honorable Sir *Alexander Campbell*, Minister of Militia, acquainted the House that he had a Message from His Excellency the Governor General, under his sign manual, which His Excellency had commanded him to deliver to this House.

The same was then read by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

Lorne.

The Governor General transmits to the Senate under the provisions of the 59th clause of the *British North America Act*, 1867, a copy of an Order of the Honorable the Privy Council, dated the 25th July, 1879, containing the cause assigned for the removal of the Honorable *Luc Letellier de St. Just*, from his Office of Lieutenant Governor of the Province of *Quebec*.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
OTTAWA, 1880.

COPY of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 25th July, 1879.

The Committee of Council have had under consideration a memorandum dated 23rd July, 1879, from Sir *John A. Macdonald*, to whom was referred the despatch of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated the 3rd of July, 1879, on the subject of the reference to Her Majesty of the recommendation made by Your Excellency's advisers, that Mr. *Letellier*, the Lieutenant Governor of *Quebec*, should be removed from his office, reporting:—That on the 14th of March, 1879, the House of Commons of *Canada* passed the following Resolution:—

“That the dismissal by the Lieutenant Governor of *Quebec* of his Ministers on the second day of March, 1878, was, under the circumstances, unwise and subversive of the position accorded to the advisers of the Crown since the concession of the principle of Responsible Government to the *British North American* colonies.”

That a few days afterwards, he, Sir *John A. Macdonald*, as First Minister, waited on Your Excellency, and informed you that after the Resolution of the Senate in the last Session of Parliament, and the resolution of the House of Commons just referred to, it was the opinion of Your Excellency's advisers that the usefulness of Mr. *Letellier* as Lieutenant Governor of *Quebec*, was gone, and they advised that in the public interest it was expedient that he should be removed from office. That Your Excellency was thereupon pleased to state that as the Federal system introduced by the *British North America Act* of 1867, was until then unknown in *Great Britain* or her colonies, there were no precedents to guide us; that the decision in the present case would settle for the future the relations between the Dominion and Provincial Governments so far as the office of Lieutenant Governor is concerned, and that Your Excellency therefore deemed it expedient to submit the advice tendered to you, and the whole case, with all the attendant circumstances, to Her Majesty's Government for their consideration and instructions.

That this decision of Your Excellency was made with the assent of the Cabinet who then assumed, and still assume the responsibility of the reference.

That he begs further to state, that the despatch from the Secretary for the Colonies has been carefully reconsidered, and that it is the decided and sustained opinion of Your Excellency's Ministers that it is expedient and necessary that Mr. *Letellier* should be removed from his office of Lieutenant Governor of *Quebec*.