

I have, in reply, to inform your Lordship that I have perused the Draft Charter enclosed in your first letter, and I have also carefully considered the suggestions by which it is accompanied, and that I regret to be under the necessity of stating, that it is impossible for me to come to any decision on the application you have submitted to me, without having had an opportunity of ascertaining what may be the views of the Provincial Government upon it. I will, therefore, transmit copies of your letters and of the Draft Charter to the Earl of Elgin, and I must postpone offering any advice to Her Majesty as to the grant or refusal of the Charter, until I shall have received His Lordship's report upon the subject.

In stating to your Lordship that such is the course which I feel it my duty to take, I beg to observe, with reference to some of the statements contained in your Memorandum of two interviews you had with the late Sir Robert Peel, that in making the proposed reference to the Governor of the Colony, I am merely acting in accordance with the rule which I have thought it right invariably to adhere to since I have had the honor of holding the Seals of this Department (and in which I believe I am following my predecessors in office) to decline adopting, in consequence of applications addressed to me directly, any important step affecting the internal interests of any of Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, without having had a previous opportunity of communicating on the subject with the Governor of the Colony to which such application may relate. Your Lordship is aware that if your application for a Royal Charter had been addressed to me by letter from the Colony, the established regulations of the Colonial Service would have required that it should have been forwarded to me through the Governor, in order that he might have an opportunity of offering an explanation of his views with regard to it, before any decision was come to by Her Majesty's Government. I conceive, that the circumstance of your Lordship having come to this country, in order to bring the application before me personally, instead of by letter, can make no difference in the obvious propriety of enabling the Governor to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to any considerations which may appear to him to require their attention, before they come to a decision on a subject of such importance, to the people of Canada.

I cannot conclude this letter, without expressing the great regret with which I have observed an expression in the Memorandum of your interview with Sir Robert Peel, which might be understood as implying that you regard a reference of this question to the Governor General of Canada as a reference "to your enemies." Nothing, I am persuaded, can be more erroneous than such an idea, nor has there been anything in the conduct of the Earl of Elgin, which seems to me to justify the smallest doubt of his entertaining an earnest and conscientious desire to act fairly and impartially towards every Christian Church in Canada, and especially towards that of which he is himself a Member.

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