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DOMINION OF CANADA

COPY.

No. 201.

QUEBEC, September 7th, 1870.

My Lord:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from the Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia, transmitting a copy of an address to the Queen from the Representatives of the people of Nova Scotia.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

JOHN YOUNG.

The Right Honorable,
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c., &c., &c.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
25th August, 1870.

SIR,—

I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of an address containing certain resolutions agreed to by the House of Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia, with a view to its being transmitted to the proper authority at Home.

I have, &c.,
(Signed.)

EDWARD KENNY,
Administrator.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
For the Provinces, &c., &c.,
Ottawa.

Copy.

Canada,
No. 202.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Downing Street,
8th October, 1870.

SIR,—

I have received and laid before the Queen your Despatch No. 201, of the 7th of September, in which you enclose an address to Her Majesty from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia.

I observe that this address was agreed to by the Assembly, on the 16th of April, it only reached this country on the 21st of September. If this delay rests with the Provincial Government, I can scarcely be wrong in inferring that they do not attach that importance to the address which on its face it would appear to deserve. I lose, however, no time in acknowledging it. The House of Assembly request to be informed, first, whether should the Dominion of Canada claim to be made independent. Her Majesty's Government are prepared to acquiesce in such a measure and to permit the Dominion to assume the position of a free and independent nation; and secondly, whether, if the people of any one of the Confederate Provinces, dissatisfied with the Confederation, desired independence, Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to set it free.

In answer to the first question I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have no reason to doubt that the people of Canada are sincerely desirous of maintaining unimpaired the existing connection with the rest of the Empire, and they therefore, think it unnecessary to enter into a discussion as to what might be the policy of this country towards the Dominion if a different state of circumstances were to arise.

But I may observe that whilst Her Majesty's Government have ever been ready to assist in preserving a connection based upon the free will of the people of British North America, the Assembly cannot be ignorant of the disinclination of this country to interfere, by force, with the wishes of the Colonists.

With respect to the second question, I have to observe that it is not within the legal power of the Sovereign to dismember the Dominion of Canada, and that Her Majesty would view with great regret any attempt to disturb an Union which, as She believes, is calculated to promote the security of every Province included in it.

In conclusion, I am to express Her Majesty's satisfaction at the assurance of the continued loyalty and attachment of the people of Nova Scotia and Her confident expectation that further experience of the results of the Union with Her other North American Dominions will remove the apprehensions which are entertained by the Assembly, and will prove that in assenting to this Union the Imperial Parliament has laid the foundation of a great and prosperous community in which Nova Scotia will exercise the influence justly due to the vigor of its inhabitants, and to the important maritime position of its territory.

I have, &c.,

KIMBERLEY.

(Signed,) Governor General,
The Right Honorable Sir John Young, Bart.,
G. C. B., G. C. M. G. 46-41

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