

vincial parliament, we had to applaud the principles of order and justice announced in the speech delivered from the throne, by his excellency the Governor in Chief of this province, on divers matters connected with the administration of the government, and which might become the subject of our deliberations. In our firm hope that the efforts of your Majesty's government to do full justice to the people of this country, would be continued without relaxation, in a spirit of enlightened liberality, we have by our answer shown that confidence could still exist on our part, and on that of the people, in your Majesty's government. We believed so much the more firmly, that the declarations of which we have just spoken, and the extraordinary attributions and circumstances which accompanied the usual powers of your Majesty's representative, were our guarantees that the essential and vital subjects which were only spoken of to us as matters for the future deliberation and decision of your Majesty and your parliament, would be looked at in the same comprehensive spirit, and with the same views, and, above all, that the researches and determinations adapted to throw light on the solution of these weighty questions, would not be restrained by any formal refusal of the demands which were to form the matter of investigation, nor by any final determination to maintain at all events, the pretensions raised from time to time on divers subjects of colonial policy by your Majesty's responsible Ministers, and which called forth the remonstrances of this House and the people; matters which, as your Majesty was pleased to assure us, were to be equally the subject of research and deliberation. We thought, that without bringing forward unjust and inapplicable theories of metropolitan domination and colonial abasement, without recurring to a system proved false by memorable examples, regard would be had exclusively to the principles of the constitution, the mutual interests of all parties, and the peace, welfare, rights, wishes and wants of these important portions of the British dominions.

It could therefore only be with lively anxiety that we were brought to suppose, from the knowledge which reached us, at first indirectly, and afterwards by the official channel, of certain extracts from a despatch dated the 17th July 1835, addressed by your Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to certain persons in Lower Canada (unacquainted as we moreover are with the tenor of the other parts of the same document, and with any subsequent instructions) that in point of fact, the researches authorized by your Majesty, for the purpose of ascertaining the means of doing justice to your Canadian subjects, were on several of the most essential points limited by preconceived opinions and anticipated decisions in the manner herein before set forth. We are bound on this head to declare,

Disappointment caused by the disclosure of instructions to the commissioners.