

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
22 May 1837.

ment for this purpose ; but his Majesty's Government are still willing to hope that the exercise of the power to be intrusted to you may not be rendered unnecessary by the intervention of the provincial legislature. To avoid the necessity of violating one of the great principles of the Canadian constitution, we have been willing to make every sacrifice excepting that of the honour of the Crown and the integrity of the Empire ; and even now we are anxious that the experiment should be tried, whether yet a possibility remains of reconciling the assertion of those permanent interests with the maintenance of the principles of the Parliamentary Charter of 1791. The interval which must elapse before the proposed Bill can have passed both Houses of Parliament and have been transmitted to your Lordship, affords an opportunity, of which his Majesty's Government are happy to avail themselves, of inviting the House of Assembly to reconsider the course by which they have attempted to enforce their demands, after they shall have been made acquainted with the deliberate opinion of both Houses of Parliament on the several points at issue. I cannot but entertain the hope that this opinion, expressed in the most decisive manner, after full and protracted discussion, may not be without its due weight on the deliberations of the House of Assembly, and that they will feel that they are best consulting the interests committed to their care by receding from the extreme ground which they have recently taken, and by co-operating with his Majesty's Government and the Imperial Parliament in effecting those salutary improvements in the provincial government, and the working of the existing constitution, from which real and important benefits may accrue to all classes of his Majesty's subjects in Lower Canada. The King would not authorize your Lordship to submit to the Assembly any proposal derogatory from the high estimation which justly attaches to the representatives of the Canadian people ; but his Majesty is assured that no real dishonour or well-founded reproach would be incurred by the House if that which has been refused to the executive government, acting alone and unsupported by the British Parliament, should be conceded to the united voice of the imperial legislature.

In this hope, and resolved to omit no possible effort for reconciling these differences, his Majesty commands me to instruct your Lordship, on the receipt of this Despatch, to convene the provincial legislature for the earliest day at which it can be conveniently called together. It is, indeed, possible that circumstances with which I am unacquainted, but of which your Lordship will be in possession, may render a strict adherence to this injunction inexpedient. In that case a discretion will, of course, remain with you as to the precise period for which the legislature should be summoned. Any delay, however, not imperatively demanded by the force of such circumstances appears to me undesirable.

You will communicate to them, on their meeting, the proceedings which have taken place in Parliament, and the Resolutions which have been adopted on the affairs of Lower Canada ; you will express to them the deep regret and reluctance with which his Majesty's Government have yielded to the necessity of invoking the interference of Parliament, in order to meet the pressing difficulties which other resources had failed to remove in the administration of the affairs of the Province. You will further express to the House of Assembly the anxious hope that you may not be compelled to exercise the extreme power with which Parliament has declared its intention of investing you, in order to discharge the arrears due for public services in the colony, for the payment of which the faith of the Crown has been repeatedly pledged. You will inform them, that the chief object with which they are called together at present is, that before the Bill founded on the Resolutions shall reach Lower Canada, they may have an opportunity of rendering that part of it which rests on the 8th Resolution unnecessary and inoperative, by a grant of the supplies requisite for the purposes for which it is intended to provide. You will further express to them the earnest desire of his Majesty's Government to co-operate with them in the removal of every obstacle to the beneficial working of the existing constitution, and in the correction of every defect which time and experience have developed in the laws and institutions of the Province, or in the administration of its government. You will assure them of a prompt attention on the part of his Majesty's Government to every representation which may proceed from them tending to effect improvements of this nature, calculated to strengthen the connexion subsisting between this country and Lower Canada, by the promotion of the welfare and the interests of all classes of his Majesty's subjects in