

5. I feel confident that my object in sending to you these memoranda, for the consideration of your ministers, will not be misunderstood, and that these papers will not be construed as expressing the finally formed opinion of Her Majesty's Government, who have promised to await Mr. Blake's visit before coming to any definite conclusion.

I transmit them to you because I feel that your advisers (and more particularly of course Mr. Blake) are entitled to such explanations as I am now in a position to give them respecting the present views of Her Majesty's Government, and are moreover entitled (as recent communications have been either private or by telegraph) to some official assurance that Her Majesty's Government have not neglected to give due consideration to this very important subject, and to Mr. Blake's able communication respecting it.

6. Your ministers will I doubt not agree with me that there will be no advantage in their making at the present moment any such reply to, or observations upon, these documents as would be desirable if the discussion had reached a more advanced stage.

At the present moment, and, indeed as I firmly believe, in any consideration of so serious and delicate a constitutional question, the more statesmanlike course is to inquire, not whether the Dominion Legislature has or has not had vested in it the power of terminating appeals to this country from the Local Courts, nor whether the Queen is able, or may be advised to give up, directly or indirectly, any part of her prerogative, but whether it is expedient for the Dominion Parliament, by its Legislation, to bring such questions to an issue.

The assurance of your advisers (and I may particularize the very loyal speeches recently made by Mr. Mackenzie) would preclude all doubt, if it had been possible for me to entertain any, as to their determination to uphold the close union of Canada with Great Britain.

But those who are less able to form a correct opinion on such subjects have, as you are aware, supposed, or at least stated, that the proposal to prohibit all appeals from the Supreme Court of the Dominion to this country is referable to a feeling of indifference as to the value of that union.

While undoubtedly there are many who, though desiring to do full justice to the reasons which have led to the present enactment, sincerely believe that it will have the effect of severing one of the principal ties by which Canada is united to this country.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

CARNARVON.