

"ance of my official relations with your public men is the Parliament of Canada. (Cheers.)
 "In fact, I suppose I am the only person in the Dominion whose faith in the wisdom and
 "the infallibility of Parliament is never shaken. (Great laughter.) Each of you,
 "gentlemen, only believe in Parliament so long as Parliament acts according to your
 "wishes—(cheers and laughter)—and convictions. I gentlemen, believe in Parliament
 "no matter which way it votes—(laughter)—and to those men alone whom the deliberate
 "will of the confederated Parliament of the Dominion may assign to me as my responsible
 "advisers can I give my confidence. (Cheers.) Whether they are the heads of this party
 "or of that party must be a matter of indifference to the Governor-General. (Cheers.)
 "So long as they are maintained by Parliament in their position, so long is he bound to
 "give them his unreserved confidence, to defer to their advice, and loyally to assist them
 "with his counsels. (Applause.) Whenever, in the vicissitudes of party warfare, they
 "are replaced by others—(laughter)—he welcomes their successors with an equally open and
 "loyal regard. (Cheers.) Such private friendships as he may have formed he may have
 "a right to retain. (Hear, hear.) As a reasonable being he cannot help having
 "convictions upon the merits of different policies—(hear)—but these considerations are
 "abstract, speculative and devoid of practical effect on his official relations. (Cheers.)
 "As the head of a constitutional State, as engaged in the administration of Parliamentary
 "Government, he has no political friends; still less need he have political enemies.
 "(Great cheering.) The possession, or even to be suspected of possessing either, destroys
 "his usefulness. (Loud cheers.) Sometimes, of course, no matter how disconnected he
 "personally may be with what is taking place, his name will get dragged into some
 "controversy, and he may suddenly find himself the subject of hostile criticism by the
 "press of whatever party may for the moment be out of humor. (Laughter.) But, under
 "these circumstances, he must console himself with the reflection that these spasmodic
 "castigations—(laughter)—are as transitory and innocuous—(great laughter)—as the
 "discipline applied occasionally to their idols by the unsophisticated worshippers of
 "Mumbo Jumbo—(immense laughter)—when their harvests are short or a murrain
 "visits their flocks. (Cheers.) For, gentlemen, of this I am certain: although he may
 "sometimes err in his judgment, or fail in serving you as effectually as he might desire,
 "a Viceroy who honestly seeks to do his duty—(cheers)—to whom the interests of Canada
 "are as precious and her honour as dear as his own—(immense cheering)—who steers
 "unmoved, an even course, indifferent to praise or blame, between the political
 "contentions of the day—(cheers)—can never appeal in vain to the confidence and
 "generosity of the Canadian people. (Immense applause.)"

But though keeping my final decision in suspense, my mind was much occupied, as
 Your Lordship may imagine, with the consideration of the various courses open to me.
 On one point I was quite clear—namely, that it would not be right for me to countenance
 the settlement of the serious issues raised between my Ministers and their opponents—
 involving, as they did, the personal honor of the most eminent men in Canada, the fate
 of my Ministry, and the public credit of the country—except at the hands of a full
 Parliament, in which the distant provinces of the Dominion were as well represented as
 those of Ontario and Quebec.

As I have already described to Your Lordship in the earlier part of this
 despatch, before Parliament adjourned on the 23rd of May, I had caused it to
 be announced to both Houses that Prorogation would take place on the 13th of August.
 This arrangement, I have no hesitation in saying, was agreeable to what were then the
 views of the majority both in the Senate and in the House of Commons. On the faith
 of this pledge, many gentlemen were gone to so great a distance that it was physically
 impossible for them to be recalled, and it so happened, from causes to which I have
 already referred, that by far the larger proportion of these absentees were supporters of
 the Government. All the Members from British Columbia, except Sir F. Hincks, were
 on the wrong side of the Rocky Mountains. Some Ministerialists were in Europe, as I