

Another consideration has also weighed with me. If the Legislature of Upper Canada should declare decidedly in favour of the union of the provinces, and agree to terms which the Imperial Parliament may adopt and pass into law, it appears to me, from all I can learn of the state of public opinion here, that the measure may be brought into practical operation at a very early period, in which case it would be desirable that the Upper Province should not be subjected to two general elections within a short space of time; one for the Provincial, and a second for the United Assembly:

Upon these grounds, my Lord, I have formed my decision, of which I hope that your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government will approve.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. POULETT THOMSON.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 31.
Right Hon.
C. P. Thomson
to Lord John Russell.
1st Nov. 1839.

(No. 8.)

No. 32.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. C. POULETT THOMSON to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

MY LORD,

Government House, Montreal, 16th Nov. 1839.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that I summoned the special council to meet on Monday last, the 11th instant.

For the reasons which I have stated to your Lordship in another despatch, I made no change in the members composing it. The chief justice of the province having, however, attended in his place, I, of course named him to preside in my absence instead of the gentleman who had previously performed that duty, who was selected, I believe, as the senior member of the council.

I expect that great advantage will result from the presence of the chief justice in the council, and from his presiding over its deliberations, which I find are not carried on in the presence of the Governor-general; and I am happy to say, that this opinion is common to all the members of the council.

I renewed the ordinance for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus, which would otherwise have expired on the 1st January next, to the 1st June 1840, and another ordinance for the seizure of arms, and have adjourned the meetings of the council until my return from the Upper Province.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. POULETT THOMSON.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 32.
The Rt. Hon. C. P.
Thomson to Lord John
Russell.
16th Nov. 1839.

No. 1.
No. 2.

P. S.—I enclose, for her Majesty's sanction, authenticated copies of the renewed ordinances above mentioned.

Enclosure 1 in No. 32.

No. 115.

AN ORDINANCE further to continue, for a limited time, a certain Ordinance, relative to persons charged with High Treason, suspicion of High Treason, Misprision of High Treason, and Treasonable Practices.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to continue, for a limited time, the Ordinance herein-after mentioned: BE it therefore Ordained and Enacted by his Excellency the Governor of the Province of Lower Canada, by and with the advice and consent of the Special Council for the affairs of the said Province, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the first year of the Reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act to make temporary provision for the Government of Lower Canada," And it is hereby Ordained and Enacted by the authority of the same, that the Ordinance made and passed in the Second year of Her Majesty's Reign, chapter four, intituled, "An Ordinance to authorize the apprehension and detention of persons charged with High Treason, Suspicion of High Treason, Misprision of High Treason, and Treasonable Practices, and to suspend for a limited time, as to such persons, a certain Ordinance therein mentioned, and for other purposes," shall remain in force; and the Ordinance thereby suspended, made in the Twenty-fourth year of the Reign of King George the Third, intituled "An

Enclosure, No. 1.