

2 CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT

II.
North American
Colonies.
—
CANADA.

3d. Would the salary which the present Bishop receives as Archdeacon of Quebec, be affected by the contraction of the limits of the archdeaconry to the limits of the proposed new diocese of Quebec?

I am further to add, that the Society would be obliged to your Lordship for an early reply to these inquiries.

The Right Honourable Earl Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ernest Hawkins.*

Encl. 2, in No. 1.

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 May 1849.

I AM directed by Earl Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, stating that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, are prepared to endow a second bishopric in Canada East, and requesting, before proceeding further with this intention, to be supplied with information on certain points specified in your letter.

To the questions so proposed, Lord Grey directs me to return you the following answer.

1st. Her Majesty's Government do not feel prepared to recommend the creation of a new Protestant bishopric in Canada East, without having had some previous communication with the Governor of Canada, and without having ascertained that the measure would meet with the approbation of the inhabitants of this province. The first step to be taken, therefore by the Society, if they wish the proposal to be entertained, is to lay before Lord Grey in writing, a statement of the grounds on which they propose the change, and of the precise nature of the arrangement which is contemplated; and as soon as that statement has been received, Lord Grey will transmit it to Lord Elgin for his report.

In answer to the 2d and 3d questions in your letter, I am to state that Lord Grey considers that the diminution in the size of the diocese and archdeaconry of Quebec, will not occasion any alteration in the amount of the emoluments received by Dr. Mountain, in his character of Bishop of Montreal, and that the only alteration which can take place in that respect, will be when a vacancy occurs in the office, when the Parliamentary grant now received by the present Bishop of Montreal will wholly cease.

The Reverend E. Hawkins.

I am, &c.
(signed) *H. Merivale.*

Encl. 3, in No. 1.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

Sir,

79, Pall-mall, 11 June 1849.

I am directed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to state to you, for the information of Earl Grey, the grounds on which the Society is desirous to promote the erection of a second bishopric in Canada East. Those grounds are briefly—

1. The vast extent of the present diocese of Quebec, containing an area of 200,000 square miles, an area, therefore, equal to the whole of France.

2. The increasing number of settled clergymen and missionaries, at this time exceeding 80, and the inconvenience and expense to which many of them are exposed by their great distance from their Bishop. His Lordship states that, at his visitation last summer, two clergymen had to travel upwards of 700 miles to attend his summons.

3. It has been uniformly found that the appointment of an additional Bishop has tended almost immediately to increase the number of churches and clergy, and to promote the moral and religious improvement of the people.

4. The present Bishop of Montreal has frequently urged the importance of a division of his see, in order to secure a more efficient supervision of the clergy and their congregations.

In case Her Majesty's consent were obtained to this most desirable measure, funds would be provided for the endowment of a second bishopric, without having recourse to either the Imperial or Colonial Treasury.

It is proposed, subject to future consideration, that the projected new diocese of Montreal should consist of so much of the ancient diocese of Quebec as constitutes the district of Montreal, erected for judicial purposes under Acts of the Provincial Legislature which are now in force.

For the reasons above stated, I am to express a hope that Her Majesty may be advised to consent to the erection of a second bishopric in Canada East.

H. Merivale, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ernest Hawkins.*