

CANADA.

COPIES of or EXTRACTS from DESPATCHES on the Subject of
CANADA.

From Lord Glenelg.

No. 1.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord GLENELG to Sir F. B. HEAD, K.C.H.

Sir,

Downing Street, 5th December 1835.

I HAVE the Honour herewith to transmit to you a Commission under His Majesty's Sign Manual appointing you Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada.

You have been selected for this Office at an Era of more Difficulty and Importance than any which has hitherto occurred in the History of that Part of His Majesty's Dominions. The Expression of Confidence in your Discretion and Ability which the Choice itself implies would only be weakened by any more formal Assurance which I could convey to you.

In the following Instructions I shall presuppose your Knowledge of many Occurrences, the correct Understanding of which is essential to the Discharge of the Duties to which you are called, but which it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate. As, however, a more exact Acquaintance with Canadian Affairs is indispensable for your Guidance in the Administration of the Government of Upper Canada, I think it right to refer you to those Sources of Information on which you will be able most safely to rely. Amongst these the first Place is due to the Journals of the Legislative Council and of the House of General Assembly. The Appendices subjoined to the annual Summary of the Proceedings of the Two Houses contain a Fund of Information on almost every Topic connected with the Statistics and political Interests of the Province; and to those Reports you will be able to resort with far greater Confidence than to any other Source of similar Intelligence. The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons of the Year 1828, with the Evidence, oral and documentary, to which it refers, will also throw much Light on the Progress and the actual State of the Questions agitated in the Upper Province. The Correspondence of my Predecessors and myself, with the Officers who have successively administered the Provincial Government, will of course engage your careful Attention.

In Upper Canada, as in all Countries which enjoy the Blessing of a free Constitution, and of a Legislature composed in part of the Representatives of the People, the Discussion of public Grievances, whether real or supposed, has always been conducted with an Earnestness and Freedom of Inquiry, of which, even when occasionally carried to Exaggeration, no reasonable Complaint can be made. The Representatives of the Canadian People, if departing at Times from the measured Style and exact Terms in which the Investigation of Truth may perhaps be most successfully conducted, have yet, even in the Agitation of Questions the most deeply affecting the Interests of their Constituents, exhibited a studious Respect for the Person and Authority of their Sovereign, and a zealous Attachment to the Principles of their balanced Constitution. Until the last Session of the Provincial Parliament the Remonstrances of the House were chiefly confined to insulated Topics of Complaint: Discussions indeed

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