

FURTHER RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 14 May 1846.

COPIES of any DESPATCHES from the Governor-General of *Canada* to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, in regard to the Commercial Changes now under the consideration of the Imperial Legislature.—(In continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 321, of the present Session.)

Colonial Office, Downing-street,
8 June 1846.

LYTTELTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 10 June 1846.

— No. 1. —

(No. 54.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor the Earl *Cathcart*, K.C.B., to the Right Honourable *W. E. Gladstone*.

No. 1.
Governor Earl
Cathcart to
Mr. Secretary
Gladstone,
13 May 1846.

Sir,

Government House, Montreal, 13 May 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in order that it may be laid at the foot of the Throne, an Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Assembly of this Province, praying that, in the event of a change being made in the law regulating the admission of Foreign Corn into the British markets, due regard may be had to the interests of Canada.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Cathcart*.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, respectfully beg leave to address your Majesty on a subject of the highest importance to the inhabitants of this Province.

We assure your Majesty, that while we have seen with unmingled satisfaction the happiness and prosperity of the people of this colony advancing in steady and successful progression under that moderate system of protection of her staple productions, grain and lumber, which your Majesty and your Imperial Parliament have hitherto graciously secured to them, we feel that we should be wanting in our duty, as well to your Majesty as to our constituents, did we fail earnestly to represent to your Majesty that we view with serious apprehension and alarm, as detrimental to the best interests of this colony, the adoption of the proposed principle of commercial intercourse now under the consideration of the Imperial Parliament.

We cannot but fear that the abandonment of this protective principle, the very basis of the colonial commercial system, is not only calculated materially to retard the agricultural improvement of the country, and check its hitherto rising prosperity, but seriously to impair our ability to purchase the manufactured goods of Great Britain; a result alike prejudicial to this colony and the Parent State.

We feel truly grateful to your Majesty for enabling us, by guaranteeing the payment of 1,500,000*l.*, to undertake many valuable public improvements, which are now approaching to completion, and which under the existing laws would ultimately prove productive. But should the duties on foreign and colonial produce entering the United Kingdom be assimilated, as at present proposed by your Majesty's Imperial Government, it is much to be apprehended that the agriculturists of this Province will be deprived of a fair and remunerative price for their surplus produce; and that, consequently, the increase of our staple products, which was reasonably anticipated, will be checked to such an extent as materially to lessen the prospect of our canals and other public works proving as productive as we had reason to expect.

We respectfully represent to your Majesty, that, situated as Canada is, and with a climate so severe as to leave barely one-half the year open for intercourse by the St. Lawrence with the mother country, the cost of transporting her products to market