

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
29 April 1837.

which have so long agitated and distracted the Province. The sole ground of my postponing at that time a decision on those recommendations was, that his Majesty's Government were convinced that it was indispensable to consider the whole of the main questions in dispute at one and the same time, after they should have received from the Commissioners a full and final Report on the topics which had been referred to them. That time has now arrived, and you will have already been informed that it is our intention to advise his Majesty to make an addition to the Legislative Council, by a careful selection of men of property, character and influence in the Province, of liberal views, and entitled to the respect and confidence of the public, but not committed to the extreme opinions to which I am willing to hope, from your recent information, many who have hitherto countenanced them are not disposed pertinaciously to adhere. We are also fully prepared to sanction a reconstruction of the Executive Council. So soon as the Resolutions which have now been affirmed by large majorities of The House of Commons shall have been sanctioned by The House of Lords, I shall address to you full instructions as to the course which it will be expedient for you to adopt. In the mean time, I shall be most anxious to receive the list of names referred to in the postscript of your letter, and I trust that I shall then be enabled at a very early period to transmit to you the requisite authority for summoning such gentlemen to the Councils as, after mature consideration, shall appear fully qualified for this important trust. I need not here repeat the regret and reluctance with which the Government have felt themselves bound to propose to Parliament the adoption of a course which they would gladly have avoided, had any less objectionable means been within their reach of satisfying those claims, the urgency of which has been so forcibly and repeatedly pressed on us by the Commissioners. In yielding to the necessity thus imposed on us, we have not been insensible to the obligation which we fully admit of conceding to the Assembly whatever in their demands was not inconsistent with the integrity of the Empire and the good faith of the British Parliament. In the policy to be hereafter pursued, I trust that the errors of past times will be avoided, and that his Majesty's subjects of all classes in Lower Canada will recognize an earnest desire on the part of the Imperial Government to promote, by a just, liberal and impartial administration of public affairs, the welfare and prosperity of the Province, and to meet the deliberate wishes of the inhabitants to the fullest extent which is compatible with their relation to this country.

In the present unhappy state of feeling between contending parties, I need scarcely observe that great caution and circumspection must be requisite, in order to avoid the risk of widening existing differences and increasing heats and jealousies, which I am well aware it is your constant aim to mitigate and allay. I am fully alive to the responsibility which rests on you, and to the difficulties which must present themselves at so critical a moment, especially in the selection of individuals for offices of trust and confidence, but I am happy in being able to rely on the judgment and discretion which you have hitherto evinced.

(No. 210.)

—No. 7.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to the Earl of *Gosford*, dated
Downing-street, 22 May 1837.

No. 7.

Lord Glenelg to
Earl of Gosford,
22 May 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Resolutions on the affairs of Lower Canada, which you are already aware had been adopted by The House of Commons, having been subsequently communicated at a conference to The House of Peers, have been assented to by their Lordships without a division. In pursuance of those Resolutions, it is the intention of his Majesty's Government immediately to introduce into Parliament a Bill, which, in addition to the authority with which it is proposed to invest the Governor to discharge the arrears due for the various public services in the colony, will embrace such of the other topics comprised in the Resolutions as require a legislative sanction. In the meantime, and until you receive the direct sanction of an Act of Parliament, you will not consider yourself at liberty to depart from the ordinary course to be observed in the appropriation of any portion of the public revenue which has hitherto been subject to the control of the provincial legislature. The opinion, indeed, which has already been so clearly expressed by both Houses of the Imperial Parliament, as to the necessity of investing you with this authority, leaves no room for doubt as to the result of the proposal of the requisite enactment