

of it would have on the future condition of this Province, that I feel it my duty to take every opportunity of urging its importance on Her Majesty's Government, and on Parliament. This appears to me the more necessary, because I do not believe, from the experience which I have myself had, of discussions of matters relating to the Canadas in England, that this question is felt to be of the immense importance which it really is to the state of society here. The attention of Parliament has been chiefly turned to the condition of Lower Canada, where the subject has never been agitated; and, even as regards this Province, attention has been principally directed to improvements or alterations in the constitution or form of government rather than to this subject, which in reality has been the real cause of the dissatisfaction and excitement which produced the demand for such changes.

It rests, therefore, in my opinion, mainly with the Imperial Parliament, whether this Province shall become contented and prosperous, or whether agitation shall be revived, and all hope of a peaceable and happy settlement of its affairs be indefinitely postponed. If the establishment of the Union, and the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, be adopted in accordance with the wishes of the Legislature here, and if Parliament shall consent to afford some aid in developing the resources, and re-establishing the credit of the Colony, when the Union shall be determined upon, which may be done without any pecuniary sacrifice on the part of the mother country, I am sanguine as to the future condition of the Canadas. But, unhappily, if British politics and party differences should prevent or retard this settlement, I can only look forward to a state of dissatisfaction and disorder far greater than that in which this Province was justly represented to be some months ago, and to consequences most disastrous to Her Majesty's subjects, and fatal to British connexion.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. Poulett Thomson.

No. 17.
Right hon. C. Poulett Thomson to Lord John Russell,
11 February 1840.

Enclosure in No. 17.

Governor-General's Speech on proroguing the Legislature of Upper Canada.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: Encl. in No. 17

IN relieving you from further attendance in Parliament, I desire to express my deep sense of the zeal and assiduity which have distinguished your discharge of your duties during this, perhaps the most eventful session of the Upper Canada Legislature; and I am anxious to offer you my own acknowledgments for the ready attention which you have given to the consideration of the important business which it was my duty to bring before you.

Your willing acquiescence in the proposed reunion of this Province with Lower Canada, upon the terms, and according to the principles suggested by me, has afforded me the most lively satisfaction; and I look forward with confidence to the completion of that measure, under the direction of our Gracious Sovereign and of the Imperial Parliament, as the means by which the peace, happiness, and good government of the inhabitants of the Canadas will be permanently secured.

By the Bill which you have passed for the disposal of the Clergy Reserves, you have, so far as your constitutional powers admit, set at rest a question which, for years past, has convulsed society in this Province. In framing that measure you have consulted alike the best interests of religion, and the future peace and welfare of the people, for whose service you are called upon to legislate; and I rely on your efforts proving successful, notwithstanding any attempt which may be made to renew excitement, or to raise opposition to your deliberate and recorded judgment.

The care and attention which you have bestowed on these important subjects, and the calmness and dignity which have marked your deliberations on them, cannot fail to give additional weight to your decisions before that tribunal to which they are now necessarily referred.

I have given my assent, with great satisfaction, to different Bills which you have passed; and I shall transmit, without delay, such others as, from their nature, it is my duty to reserve, in order that Her Majesty's pleasure may be signified thereupon.

Amongst the latter is a Bill for the payment of "Losses by the Rebellion or Invasion." To this Bill I should have been ready to assent; but as I observe that the House of Assembly have addressed Her Majesty, praying that the losses may be defrayed by the Imperial Treasury, I have considered it to be more for the interest of the parties concerned, that the Bill should be reserved, in order that the address may be considered by Her Majesty's Government before the provincial funds are finally charged with this payment.