

## Despatches from the Secretary of State.

— No. 1. —

(No. 49.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of *Buckingham and Chandos* to Governor *Seymour*.

No. 1.

The Duke of  
Buckingham and  
Chandos to Go-  
vernor Seymour.

17 August 1867.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 August 1867.

I HAVE had brought under my notice the resolutions apparently passed by the Legislative Council of British Columbia in March last, but respecting which I have not received any report from you, for placing the seat of Government at Vancouver's Island, but I have informed the gentlemen from whom I received them, that I must decline adopting any conclusion on the subject until the arrival of your report, which I conclude that I shall shortly receive.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Buckingham and Chandos*.

— 2. —

(No. 67.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of *Buckingham and Chandos* to Governor *Seymour*.

No. 2.

The Duke of  
Buckingham and  
Chandos to Go-  
vernor Seymour.

1 October 1867.

\* Page 4.

Sir,

Downing-street, 1 October 1867.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 87\*, of the 13th of July last, from which I learn that you are not yet prepared to recommend the adoption either of Victoria or of New Westminster as the capital of British Columbia.

I leave the determination of this question still in your hands, merely desiring that it may not be long delayed.

I take the opportunity of forwarding to you various documents† which may affect your judgment, but which I have not hitherto sent to you, because I was expecting from you a definite recommendation on the subject to which they related.

† Not printed.

As the second paragraph of your Despatch contains something like an appeal to me for an expression of opinion, I think it requisite to say that the establishment of New Westminster as the capital of British Columbia did not, in my opinion, involve any pledge on the part of the Government that the site of that capital shall never be moved. It is, of course, always undesirable to disappoint natural expectations, and much consideration may be due to those who are so disappointed. But every land purchaser in New Westminster or any other locality, must be considered to buy his land, subject to the possible changes which the varying political or commercial interests of the whole community may from time to time render necessary.

I will add that, although I do not prescribe to you the choice of one or the other capital, you will be at liberty, in case you should decide in favour of Victoria, to quote the authority of the Home Government in support of that course.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Buckingham and Chandos*.