

Enclosure 1,
in No. 1.

ably received, may in some degree, have influenced, even to the present day, the course of affairs. Neither is it possible, in the distribution of political offices at any time, or in any circumstances, to be guided entirely by a reference to the numbers of individuals, who may be comprised in this or in that class. But I assure you, that in this respect, my instructions enjoin upon me the utmost impartiality and an entire disregard of distinctions, derived from difference of origin. Fitness for the trust, is the criterion to which mainly, if not entirely, I am to look; and I do not hesitate to avow the opinion, that in every country to be acceptable to the great body of the people, is one of the most essential elements of fitness for public station.

So great is the solicitude of His Majesty to take the most effectual security against the occurrence of any abuse in the distribution of his patronage, that he has commanded the adoption of arrangements designed to elicit a far more particular account than heretofore, of the exercise of this part of his delegated authority in Lower Canada; and he has been further pleased to direct that all offices in his gift, of which the emoluments shall exceed a stated sum, shall not be granted, except under the Public Seal of the Province, in pursuance of Warrants to be issued for that purpose by His Majesty.

Complaint is also made that incompatible offices are in some cases held by the same persons. In whatsoever degree this grievance may be found to exist, His Majesty has signified to me his expectation that it should be completely remedied. Commencing with the highest, I have formed the opinion that it is neither right nor consistent with the wholesome separation, and independence of the principal bodies of the Government, and with the dignity of their members, that out of the limited number of executive councillors in this province, several should hold offices under the Legislative Council and House of Assembly. I desire, however, that it may be understood that no dissatisfaction with the conduct of the members of the Executive Council, nor any mark whatever of His Majesty's displeasure is intended to be conveyed. The immediate retirement of those gentlemen who prefer to retain their appointments under the legislative body might embarrass or interrupt the proceedings of the Court of Appeals; but I felt it my duty to impart to them the conclusion to which my mind had come. I shall communicate the same opinion to the proper authorities at home, and I entertain no doubt that as soon as their places can be supplied, according to the forms prescribed by law, effect will be given to the wish they have expressed to relinquish their seats in the Executive Council. My views are not limited to these cases. No union of incompatible or incongruous offices will be willingly acquiesced in by me: but I wish to be understood as speaking of offices of which the duties cannot conveniently or with propriety be discharged by the same person. In some instances, the division of offices is merely nominal, and the duties are more conveniently discharged by one person than they could be by two. In other instances, the salary of the office is so small, or its duty so seldom called for, that without a union with some other, the employment could only be made acceptable to a competent person by an increase of emolument.

It is stated as a grievance, that the Government has at various times refused to give the legislature access to accounts, and other documents which were necessary for the prosecution of its inquiries, and that the executive has not, in all cases, communicated when requested, the despatches which have passed between the Colonial Department and the Local Government. His Majesty's Government fears that the Assembly may have been exposed to some inconvenience from this source. The rule which I am instructed to follow, is a freedom from all unnecessary reserve. I am commanded to withhold no information from the Provincial Legislature which can be communicated without a violation of confidence, or specific detriment to the public service; and in particular, I am to offer you the fullest assistance in investigating every thing connected with the revenue and with finance. There is scarcely any document within the power of the Government which it will not always be willing to lay before you, except those confidential communications with the authorities at home or with its own officers here, which it is obvious could not be made public in all cases and at all seasons without extreme inconvenience.

As an earnest of the sincerity of these intentions, I have given directions that a copy of the annual Return, generally known as the Blue Book, should in future be presented to each branch of the Legislature; and since correct information on the statistics of the province is an object of general importance, I invite your assistance in rendering all returns of this nature as accurate and as comprehensive as possible.

The too frequent reservation of Bills for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, and the delay in communicating the King's decision upon them, is a grievance of which His Majesty's Government are solicitous to prevent the recurrence. I shall consider the power of reserving Bills as a right to be employed not without much caution, nor except on some evident necessity. His Majesty's Government also undertake on their part to bestow the most prompt attention on every question of this nature which may be brought under their notice, and especially that no measure having for its object the institution in the Province of any colleges or schools for the advancement of Christian knowledge or sound learning, shall hereafter be unnecessarily deferred.

Connected with this subject, is the lapse of time which, it is stated, has on various occasions, occurred in conveying to the Legislature His Majesty's answers to their addresses. It is very possible that delays, which all would regret, may have taken place; in some instances, perhaps, occasioned or prolonged by circumstances which no activity or zeal in His Majesty's service could have obviated; but His Majesty takes so deep, and, if I may use the expression, so personal an interest in the affairs of this country, that His Ministers have received the most unqualified commands to lay before His Majesty, immediately on its arrival in England, every communication which either branch of the

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