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OF ANY

Reports made by the Governors of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, respectively, in consequence of the Receipt of the Letter of the Secretary of State of the 16th October 1839, upon the Subject of the Administration in future of the Pathonage of their several Governments.

# COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF ANY

REPORTS made by the GOVERNORS of NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, and NEWFOUNDLAND, respectively, in consequence of the Receipt of the Letter of the Secretary of STATE of the 16th October 1839, upon the Subject of the Administration in future of the Patronage of their several GOVERNMENTS.

# NOVA SCOTIA.

#### No. 1.

(No. 6.) COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant General Sir Colin Campbell G.C.B. to Lord John Russell..

My Lord, Government House, Halifax, 1st March 1840. I TOOK the earliest Opportunity of laying before the House of Assembly a Copy of your Lordship's Circular of the 16th October, relating to the Tenure

of Offices held during the Pleasure of the Crown.

The House eagerly hailed that Despatch as a Recognition of their Claims for a responsible Government, and as imposing henceforth on the Lieutenant Governor the Obligation of dismissing or remodelling his Council whenever it vide Corresponshall cease to enjoy the Confidence of the Representatives of the People.

Disappointed by the Results of their late Delegation to England, and con1839, Part 1,

ceiving its Objects to have been in a great measure frustrated by the local Government, interested, as they assert, in maintaining extravagant Expenditure and other so-called Abuses, the House lost no Time in passing and presenting to me a Set of Resolutions (No. 1.), expressing their Want of Confidence in my Council, in full Expectation, though its Avowal was not then hazarded, that, under the Authority of your Lordship's Despatch, I would immediately dismiss my present Councillors, and call to my Assistance in their Place the leading Members of the Assembly, and others who would co-operate with them in accomplishing those extreme Measures of Reform, for which a Majority of the House has for the last Three or Four Years strenuously contended.

My Answer to these Resolutions (No. 2.) will explain to your Lordship my Reasons for not acceding to the Wishes of the House; but as it failed to carry Conviction with it, an Address (No. 3.) was immediately adopted, distinctly referring to your Lordship's Circular of the 16th October, and to the Governor General's Message of the 14th January, in support of their Views, and as mandatory on me to comply with them, and earnestly praying me to reconsider the Subject.

Not regarding your Lordship's Despatch in the same Light with the Assembly, conceiving that it was not intended to sanction any fundamental Change of the Constitution, but merely to strengthen the Hands of the Governor, by enabling him more effectually to control refractory Public Functionaries, to get rid of inefficient ones, and to insure the cordial Co-operation of all Public Servants in the Measures of his Administration; having Reason to be satisfied with my Council as it is, and knowing how ruinous the Consequences would be of the Introduction into it of those whom a Majority of the Assembly wished

to force upon me, I returned to this Address the Answer (No. 4.)
As soon as my Reply was read in the House, Mr. Joseph Howe gave Notice that, before the Close of the Session, he would move a Vote of Censure upon me, and an Address to the Queen for my Removal.

> I have, &c., (Signed) C. CAMPBELL.

No. 1. Sir C. Campbell

Lord John Russell, 1st March 1840.

For Lord John Russell's Circular Despatch, 16th October 1839, dence relating to Affairs of Canada, 1839, Part 1,

No. 1.
Sir C. Campbell
to
Lord John Russell,
1st March 1840.

Enclosure No. 1.

First Enclosure in No. 1.

To his Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Colin Campbell, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

The humble Address of the House of Representatives in General Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Representatives of Her Majesty's loyal People of Nova Scotia, having, under a solemn Sense of Duty, passed the annexed Resolutions, beg leave to recommend them to your Excellency's favourable Consideration.

In the House of Assembly, 5th February 1840.

Mr. Clements, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the

general State of the Province, reported the following Resolutions:

1. Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that for many Years the best Interests of this Province have been jeopardized, and its Progress retarded, by the Want of Harmony between the different Branches of the Government, and the Absence of that cordial Co-operation between the Representatives of the People and those who conducted the local Administration, which, in the View of this Committee, is highly desirable, if not indispensable, in every British Colony to which a Constitution modelled after that of the Mother Country has been granted by the Crown.

Mother Country has been granted by the Crown.

2. Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that in the Course of the Struggle which since 1837 the House of Assembly has maintained, with a view to reduce the Expenses, improve the Institutions, and purify the Administration of the Country, it has been met at every Step by an Influence which, while it was beyond the Control of the Assembly, has wielded the whole Power and Patronage of the Government, to bafile its Efforts, and thwart

the wise and benevolent Policy avowed by Her Majesty's Ministers.

3. Resolved, That it is the Opinion of this Committee that in approaching many of the important Questions to be disposed of in the present Session the House of Assembly feels Embarrassment and Difficulty which it would be unwise to conceal either from the Government or the Country at large; and that it can anticipate no satisfactory Settlement of those Questions until the Executive Council is so remodelled as to secure to the House of Assembly the Aid of the local Administration in carrying out the Views of the Assembly, and in facilitating any Negotiation which it may be necessary to conduct with Her Majesty's Government.

4. Therefore resolved, That it is the Opinion of the Committee that the House of Assembly, after mature and calm Deliberation, weary of seeing the Revenues of the Country and the Time of its Representatives wasted, the People of Nova Scotia misrepresented to the Sovereign, and the gracious Boons of the Sovereign marred in the Transmission to the People, do now solemnly declare that the Executive Council, as at present constituted, does not enjoy

the Confidence of the Commons.

On Motion, the several Resolutions reported from the Committee were agreed to by the House.

## Second Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 2.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

The Subject you have presented to my Consideration in this Address has, in all essential respects, already been brought under the Notice of Her Majesty's Government, in Resolutions of the House of Assembly passed last Session.

Her Majesty's Ministers, after full Consideration of the Subject, and personal Conference with Delegates from your Body, authorized to advocate your Views, have expressed in the Despatch which, by Her Majesty's Command, I recently laid before you, the Judgment to which they had come on the Matter of your Complaint.

Having

Having no Reason to believe that any Alteration has taken place in the Sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in this respect, I do not feel myself at liberty to adopt any other Course than to refer you to the Despatch already Lord John Russell, alluded to as containing their Decision.

Justice, however, to the Executive Council, leads me to say, that I have had every Reason to be satisfied with the Advice and Assistance which they have

at all Times afforded me.

It has ever been, and shall continue to be, my earnest Desire to concur in every Measure which appears to me to be conducive to the best Interests of this Province.

No. 1. Sir C. Campbell 1st March 1840.

Enclosure No. 2.

# Third Enclosure in No. 1.

To his Excellency Lieutenant General Sir Colin Campbell, Knight Com- Enclosure No. 3. mander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Address of the House of Representatives in General Assembly.

May it please your Excellency,

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the Province of Nova Scotia, cannot but express our unfeigned Regret at the Tenor of the Reply made by your Excellency to the Resolutions passed by a large

Majority of this House on the 5th instant.

It is true that some of the Complaints urged in those Resolutions had been pressed upon the Attention of Her Majesty's Government in former Communications; but we humbly conceive that the Despatch of Lord John Russell, dated 16th October, and not that of his Predecessor in Office, dated 31st August, to which your Excellency refers, is the one by which all Parties in the Colonies now and hereafter are to be governed. We believe that that Despatch not only gives to your Excellency the Power to remodel the Executive Council, but makes such Changes as are required to insure Harmony between the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Government imperative.

This House is at a loss to conceive any "Motives of public Policy" more " sufficient" to render an Application of the Principles of that Despatch to this Province advisable than the Fact, that a Majority of Thirty to Twelve of the Members of the Representative Branch have avowed their Want of Confidence in Officers expressly referred to by the Colonial Secretary; that they have declared it impossible to deal wisely with Measures of great Importance to the Government and the Country until Confidence between the Executive and the Legislative be established; and that while the only efficient Representative of the Local Government in this House has resigned his Seat, no Man of any Influence in this Assembly can be found to devote his Talents to the Service of the Government while a Majority of the Executive Council persist in retaining their Seats, and your Excellency declines to exercise the

Powers confided by Lord John Russell's Despatch.

It is to this House a Subject of deep Mortification, that while in a neighbouring Province his Excellency Sir John Harvey recognizes the Despatch of the 16th October as conferring a new and improved Constitution on the Colonies, and has expressed his Determination to act upon it, - while in Canada the Governor General declares that he "has received Her Majesty's Com-" mands to administer the Government of these Provinces in accordance with " the well understood Wishes and Interests of the People, and to pay to their " Feelings, as expressed through their Representatives, the Deference that is " justly due to them,"—that the People of Nova Scotia are to be treated worse than the People of New Brunswick; and that, under Cover of a Despatch written before the new Policy was adopted by a Nobleman who no longer presides over the Colonies, Principles are to be applied to Nova Scotia, whose Allegiance is unsullied, less in accordance with the Spirit and (181.) Practice

No. 1. Sir C. Campbell Lord John Russell, 1st March 1840.

Enclosure No. 3.

Practice of the British Constitution than those which have been promulgated for the Government of a Province, but recently agitated by Disaffection and Rebellion.

Should your Excellency, upon reconsidering this Subject, upon referring to the Governor General's Message of the 14th January, in which he declares his earnest and anxious Desire to discharge the Trust committed to him in accordance with the Principles announced, still feel compelled to disappoint the just Hopes of the People of Nova Scotia, this House will feel unfeigned Sorrow; but in the meantime they trust they need not assure your Excellency of their Desire to preserve the Tranquillity of the Province, and to insure the harmonious Action of the different Branches of the Government.

House of Assembly, 12th Feb. 1840.

(Signed)

S. G. W. ARCHIBALD,

Speaker.

#### Fourth Enclosure in No. 1.

Enclosure No. 4.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have given to this Address the deep Consideration to which the Opinion of

the Representatives of the People is justly entitled.

By adopting the Course you suggest I should practically recognize a fundamental Change in the Colonial Constitution which I cannot certainly discover to have been designed by the Dispatch of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the 16th October, in the Manner and to the Extent supposed by you.

In exercising the solemn Trust committed to me by my Sovereign, I feel it to be my Duty not to establish a Principle involving Consequences of deep Moment, on which any Uncertainty rests, until Her Majesty's Ministers shall have been consulted, and the Judgment of The Queen ascertained.

It is therefore my Intention immediately to bring to the Notice of Her Majesty's Government the Addresses and Resolutions you have lately passed

on the Subject.

In the meantime I shall be constantly ready to yield my Concurrence to any Measures you may adopt, which in my Judgment are calculated to promote the Welfare of Her Majesty's loyal Subjects the People of this Province whom you represent.

## No. 2.

No. 2. Sir C. Campbell Lord John Russell,

(No. 18.) EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieut. General Sir Colin Campbell K.C.B. to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

4th April 1840.

Government House, Halifax, 4th April 1840. In a Conversation which I had with the Attorney General Yesterday, relative to the Addresses of the House of Assembly, declaring their want of Confidence in the Executive Council, he requested permission to state his views on the subject in writing; and I have now the Honour to enclose the Copy of a Letter which I have received from him.

#### Enclosure in No. 2.

Enclosure.

My dear Sir Colin, Halifax, 3d April 1840. Your Excellency is aware that, as Speaker of the Assembly, I could offer no Opinion on the Addresses which passed in the House on the Subject of the Council, without violating the Parliamentary Rule which has ever governed the Assembly here; and I feel obliged to your Excellency for not referring to me, under those Circumstances, for any Opinion as to the Course you ought to pursue.

While

#### UPON THE PATRONAGE OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

While I have the Honour of holding the Situation of Speaker I feel that it would ill become me, by any Act of mine, to oppose the expressed Wishes of the Assembly; yet as your Excellency has submitted the Matter for the Con-Lord John Russell, sideration of Her Majesty's Government, and merely requested my View of the Subject, on full Consideration of the Instructions and Despatches, I am

Enclosure. inclined to believe that the Course your Excellency has pursued is the most

prudent which you could have adopted.

The Fourth Clause of the Royal Instructions gives particular Directions, should it become necessary to suspend any Member of the Councils, but in the whole of those Instructions there is no Direction to be found applicable to the Case of an entire Change of the whole Board, nor is any such Case supposed

or provided for.

The Despatch of my Lord John Russell appeared to me to be intended as a Notice, in the first place, to all the Officers therein mentioned, that their respective Tenures of Office must thereafter be considered as strictly during Pleasure, and not, as heretofore, during Life or good Behaviour, and that all such Officers should be subject to Removal when the Public Service might render such Changes necessary.

This Despatch is plain and easy to be understood, and no doubt Instructions

will hereafter be given to meet every Case which may arise under it.

In this Province the Executive Council is constituted a Court of Appeal, and likewise exercises other high judicial Functions, great Caution is therefore necessary to prevent even Doubts as to the legal Constitution of such a Tribunal, and I am not prepared to say how far the Acts of such a Board, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor alone, without any specific Instructions for his Guidance, while the Appointments of the former Members from the Crown still exist, might be subject to legal Objections; these, with many other Reasons which might be stated, were in my Opinion sufficient to induce your Excellency to refrain from acting in a Case where you had no particular Instructions nor any Precedent to guide you, and humbly to seek Advice from Her Majesty's Government in a Measure of such high Importance.

I have offered these few Observations unofficially, principally to show that I consider your Excellency was called upon to act under Circumstances of great Embarrassment, the prudent Consideration of which might reasonably lead to

the Course which your Excellency has adopted.

I have, &c. S. G. W. ARCHIBALD, (Signed)

Attorney General.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 3.

(No. 87.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major General Sir John Harvey K.C.B. and K.C.H. to Lord John Russell.

No. 3. Sir John Harvey Lord John Russell, 24th Dec. 1839.

Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 24th December 1839. My Lord, A Copy of your Lordship's Despatch of the 16th October (marked No. 7. in the Series of those addressed to me) having appeared in the public Papers previously to its Receipt by me, and having occasioned a considerable Degree of Excitement in this Province, in which, although the predominant Feeling was that of unmixed Satisfaction, yet the real Objects proposed by the Despatch, as understood by me, did not appear to be quite so generally understood as seemed to be desirable, I have deemed it expedient, in promulgating it in this Province, to accompany it by a few Observations, of which I have the Honour to enclose a Copy.

I have, &c., (Signed) J. HARVEY.

(181.)

No. 2. Sir C. Campbell,

Enclosure.

No. 5. Sir John Harvey to Lord John Russell, 24th Dec. 1839.

Enclosure.

#### Enclosure in No. 3.

Circular Memorandum addressed by the Lieutenant Governor to the Heads of the Civil Departments and Members of the Executive Council in New Brunswick.

Gentlemen,

In communicating to you the Copy of a Despatch which I have recently received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, I avail myself of the Occasion to state to you the Views which I take of the very important Change which, by this Despatch, is made in the Tenure of your respective Offices, which, instead of being held as heretofore, either "for Life" or during good "Behaviour," are henceforward made entirely dependent upon the Will of the Sovereign, or that of Her Majesty's Representative. The principal Objects of the Regulations now introduced appear to me to be;—1st, while enlarging the Powers of the Administrator of the Government, by leaving him free to choose his Counsellors and Office Bearers, to at the same Time impose upon him a corresponding Degree of increased Responsibility, as well towards The Queen's Government as towards the Inhabitants of the Province over which he is appointed to preside, for the satisfactory Administration of its Affairs;—and, 2d, and above all, it has for its Object to insure for the Governor, as far as may be possible, the most cordial and sincere Support, Assistance, and Co-operation, in carrying out his Views and Policy, and those of Her Majesty's Government, on the Part of every individual Member of the Provincial Government, whose Tenure of Office is now made dependent upon him, by identifying their Interests (as far at least as that Tenure is concerned) with that Line of Conduct.

Entertaining these Views of the Subject, I hail this Despatch as conferring a new and in my Judgment an improved Constitution upon these Colonies.

Gentlemen, I have no Intention or Desire to require from you any thing in the Shape of a renewed Pledge or Engagement other than those to which you are already bound by your respective Oaths of Office; but, having frankly explained to you my Construction of this Despatch, I trust that it may only be necessary for me to signify to those who may do me the Honour to retain their Appointments and Seats, that I must regard their doing so as a tacit Intimation of their Desire and Intention to afford me their zealous aid and co-operation in conducting the Affairs of the Provincial Government, and that if they should at any time hereafter feel themselves called upon to avow Sentiments adverse to the Policy which that Government may pursue, or otherwise to oppose or obstruct the Course of the Proceeding which it may adopt, they will at the same Time fully recognize the Condition which such a Dissent from the Views of the Colonial Government, so carried out, must necessarily involve.

With regard to such of the present salaried Officers, possessing sufficient Claims from Length of Service, and who may now or hereafter, upon sufficient Grounds, be desirous of retiring from Office during my Administration, I can only assure them that I shall be found at all Times ready and willing to bring under the favourable Notice of Her Majesty's Government and to give all due Support to their Applications for Pension or retired Allowance, in fair and reasonable Remuneration for past Services, upon the Principle, however, that such Pension or Allowance (if obtained) shall cease upon any future Restoration to Office, and, vice versa, again revive on the Discontinuance of official Salary.

These, Gentlemen, are the only Observations which I have deemed it necessary to make in communicating to you a Despatch of which a Copy, as well as of this Memorandum, will be furnished to each of you by the Provincial Secretary.

Government House, Fredericton, 21st Dec. 1839. (Signed) J. HARVEY, Lieut. Governor.

N.B.—The Office of "Clerk of the Executive Council" is to be added to the List given in the Despatch.

(No. 25.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Major General Sir John Harvey K.C.B. and K.C.H. Lord John Russell, to Lord John Russell.

No. 4. Sir John Harvey

6th April 1840.

My Lord,

Government House, Frederictown, New Prunswick, 6th April 1840.

In order to possess your Lordship of the Feeling of the popular Branch of the Legislature of this Province upon the Subject of the ill-understood Question of "responsible Government," as well as with the Object of showing your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government the entire Satisfaction felt by that Body, and, I will add, by the Province at large, in regard to "its present happy political State," I have the Honour to place before your Lordship Copies of Five Resolutions moved, of which Three were adopted by the House of Assembly during the late Session.

I have thought that these Resolutions, and the Divisions upon them, may possess Interest for your Lordship, as exhibiting a Criterion, not equivocal, of the State of Public Feeling in this Province.

I have, &c. J. HARVEY. (Signed)

# First Enclosure in No. 4.

# House of Assembly, 29th February 1840.

Enclosure No. I.

Resolved, as the Opinion of this Committee, That the Despatch from the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, dated 16th October 1839, regarding the Rules hereafter to be observed with respect to the Tenure of Public Offices, should be highly satisfactory to this House, affording, as it does, a most gratifying Proof of a sincere Desire on the Part of our most Gracious Queen and Her Government to infuse Principles into the Administration of Colonial Affairs strictly analogous to the Principles of the British Constitution.

To which it was moved, as an Amendment, to expunge the whole of the said

Resolution, and substitute the following:-

Resolved, as the Opinion of this Committee, That there is nothing in the Despatch of the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, now under Consideration, to call forth any Expression from the House on the Subject of Colonial Government; and that in the Event of any Occurrence taking place to disturb the present happy political State of the Province, the House cannot but entertain the Opinion that any loyal and dutiful Representations which they may have Occasion to lay at the Foot of the Throne, will receive, as they have always done, the Royal Consideration.

When the following Amendment was moved to the said proposed Amendment, to expunge the Whole thereof, and substitute the following:—

Whereas the avowed Object of convening this Branch of the Legislature is to make Statutes and Ordinances for, and to advise the Executive Government in all Questions affecting the Peace, Welfare, and good Government of the Inhabitants of this Province: And whereas the Exercise of all Executive Functions should be controlled and directed by a special View to the Attainment of the same Objects: And whereas this Committee cannot waive or forego the inherent Right of this Branch of the Government to advise and assist in such Control and Direction, and to remonstrate against the abusive Exercise of those Functions; therefore,

Resolved, as the Opinion of this Committee, That the House should view the Despatch in question as distinctly recognizing an efficient Responsibility on the Part of Executive Officers to the Representative Branch of the Provincial

Government.

#### Second Enclosure in No. 4.

#### House of Assembly, 9th March 1840.

Resolved, That the late Message from the Right Honourable C. Poulett Thomson, Governor General, to the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in (181)

Enclosure No. 2.

No. 4.
Sir John Harvey
to
Lord John Russell,
4th April 1840.
Enclosure No. 2.

answer to an Address from that House, which Message contains the following Language:—"That he received Her Majesty's Commands to administer the Government of these Provinces in accordance with the well-understood Wishes and Interests of the People, and to pay to their Feelings, as expressed through their Representatives, the Deference that was justly due to them,"—fully meets the Approval of this House.

Yeas, 15. Nays, 18.

Resolved, That the Accountability of Public Men to those whose Interests are to be affected by their Acts, is an essential Feature in every free Government, without which there can be no effectual Security against official Misconduct; and that in the Opinion of this House this Principle is applicable to the Condition of this Province in all Matters relating to its own internal Affairs, not interfering with the general Arrangements of the Empire.

Yeas, 24. Nays, 4.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Nil.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Nil.