

His Excellency may be in error, but he believes that vast change has already taken place in the opinions held on this subject in New Brunswick. He fully anticipates that the House of Assembly will yet return a response to the communication made to them not less favourable to the principle of Union than that given by the Upper House; and in any event, he relies with confidence on the desire of a great majority of the people of the Province to aid in building up a powerful and prosperous Nation, under the sovereignty of the British Crown. To their verdict His Excellency is ready and willing to appeal.

The Council also express dissatisfaction at His Excellency's personal conduct in regard to his relations with them.

That is a matter of infinitely less importance to the public, and will be very shortly dealt with by His Excellency, although as His Excellency has met at all times with the utmost courtesy and consideration from the Members of his Government, it would be a source of sincere regret to him to believe that he was justly liable to any imputation of such a nature.

That a leading member of the opposition was more than once communicated with by His Excellency, is perfectly true. This communication was made with Mr. Smith's full knowledge, and in the belief on His Excellency's part, that it would facilitate Mr. Smith's accomplishment of the end in view. The gentleman in question met Mr. Smith at Government House on the fifth of March, and His Excellency believes that a very protracted interview subsequently took place between them; nor was it until a very late period that His Excellency relinquished the hope of seeing a combination effected to smooth the passage of the contemplated Resolutions.

His Excellency thinks it right also to state, that his reply was prepared by himself alone, and that his Council are in error in supposing that its terms were the subject of advice from any member of the opposition.

His Excellency does not admit the entire accuracy of Mr. Smith's report of his conversations with him, appended to the Minute of Council, but at the same time readily acknowledges that the difference between his own impression of those conversations and that of Mr. Smith, is only such

as might naturally arise under the circumstances. Mr. Smith has, however, omitted to state that at his first interview His Excellency pointed out, as he had frequently done before, the embarrassing results of the non-avowal of his Union policy, and observed that the Legislative Council had now passed an Address, at the adoption of which he should probably feel obliged to express satisfaction.

The Lieutenant Governor of course feels that previous communication between himself and his Advisers as to any step he is about to take, is, when practicable, both desirable and essential, and it was His Excellency's full intention to have afforded the Council ample opportunity for the consideration of his Reply, an intention which he he much regrets that accident should have frustrated.

The Committee of the Legislative Council did not wait on His Excellency till after 12 o'clock, and until that Address was before him he could not officially communicate with the Council on the subject of his Reply to it.

Immediately on its reception he sent for Mr. Smith, intending to put the draft Reply into his hands, and request him to communicate it to his Colleagues.

Mr. Smith, however, appears not to have received His Excellency's Note until half past two o'clock, and His Excellency's intentions in this respect were consequently foiled.

So strong was His Excellency's wish that the contents of his Reply should be known to the Council before its delivery, that when, during their last interview, His Excellency left the room as stated by Mr. Smith, it was not, as that Gentleman supposes, to consult a member of the opposition respecting the omission or retention of a paragraph in his Reply,—a point on which His Excellency received no advice from any other person than Mr. Smith,—but for the purpose of ascertaining whether it might not even then be possible to postpone the reception of the Address for a few hours. He found, however, that it would have been impossible to do so without gross discourtesy to the Legislative Council.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

*Fredericton, 12th April, 1866.*