

him into a false position." It is painful to His Excellency to suppose, even on Mr. Smith's avowal, that suspicion and mistrust existed under the veil of cordial confidence and esteem, and His Excellency is willing to believe that the feelings of irritation under which Mr. Smith at present evidently labours, have coloured his recollections of a period when the relations between His Excellency and himself were, to all outward appearances at least, those of entire confidence and familiar intimacy.

To the charge more than insinuated, His Excellency makes no reply.

That Mr. Smith occupied a false position is unfortunately, it now appears, only too true, but no effort of His Excellency was required to place him there.

4. Mr. Smith's memory is equally at fault with respect to the note of conversation read to him by His Excellency. It is again literally true that no *Despatch to Mr. Cardwell* was read by His Excellency, for the paper read was only a Memorandum on which His Excellency stated a *Despatch* would be founded.

It is true also, that Mr. Smith expressed dissatisfaction at any record of such conversation being made, and spoke of it as one of a purely confidential character; but His Excellency at once told him that it was ridiculous to suppose that he could, on a matter of public and national importance, have a secret understanding with Mr. Smith which he was not at liberty to communicate to the Imperial Government. This indeed was so evident that no further argument was attempted, and Mr. Smith contented himself with objecting to the manner in which the conversation was reported.

That note was accordingly destroyed by His Excellency without his making any use of it, and a bare statement of the result of the conversation referred to substituted for it.

His Excellency will now proceed to notice Mr. Smith's narrative as a whole.

Full as it is of omissions of an important nature, enough remains admitted to afford matter for serious reflection to those who read it. Mr. Smith does not attempt in any manner to qualify His Excellency's statement, that the acceptance of Mr. Wilmot's resignation was long delayed, in order that an arrangement might be effected with the existing Government on the subject of Union; but he maintains that the arrangement so made and considered satisfactory by His Excellency, amounted only to an understanding that papers, (the submission of which to the consideration of the whole House Mr. Smith could not possibly have prevented,) should be referred to a Committee, without any understanding as to the Report to be adopted by that Committee, or that it should not consist of persons altogether hostile to Union.

There are few who could suppose that such an arrangement would have appeared satisfactory to any person desirous of the accomplishment of Union;—that it was at all calculated to further that end;—or that its acceptance would have necessitated the amount of consultation and reference which undoubtedly took place.

Mr. Smith himself states that he told the Lieutenant Governor he "*would go for Union, provided one could be obtained on fair and equitable terms.*" And that, with the Quebec Scheme before him, and after turning over its pages, he made four objections to its provisions.

The natural inference is that, if those four objections were reasonably met, he was willing to accept the remainder of the Scheme as fair and equitable, or at least certainly to consider it as a basis of Union.

Mr. Smith appears altogether to misapprehend the position which His Excellency has occupied during the whole of this transaction. He appears to assume that the interests of local political parties have been the objects chiefly considered, and that to "upset the Government" was the chief aim of those who advocate the policy of Union.

In these local contests His Excellency has, and ought to have, little interest. He was desirous that the passage of a great measure, the speedy accomplishment of which he clearly foresaw to be inevitable, should not wear the character of a party triumph, and should, if possible, be tranquilly accomplished without the excitement of a general election; nor will His Excellency deny that the fact that they were then actually in office,—that his relations with many of their number were those of private intimacy and regard,—and that they had on

all occasions shown a marked deference to his wishes, and a scrupulous courtesy of demeanour towards himself,—rendered him disinclined to effect any change in his advisers, if such a change could be avoided; whilst, at the same time, he felt little doubt that, unless the policy of isolation were abandoned by them, the voice of the country (to which he would in that case have felt compelled to appeal,) would render such a change inevitable.

He thought, moreover, that those who desired Union would be content, as was the case in Canada, temporarily to sink party differences for the attainment of a national object; and although His Excellency owns that in this respect he was somewhat disappointed, he still believes that a bold avowal of an unionist policy on the part of the Government, would have rendered it impossible for the friends of such a policy to have avoided yielding to them an effective, if unwilling support.

His Excellency's communications with the opposition were not secret or clandestine. Mr. Smith was made fully acquainted with their purport, and on the few occasions on which Mr. Smith spoke to His Excellency in deprecation of that course, he thought that he had appreciated the reasons which had led to its adoption.

His Excellency has always done full justice to Mr. Smith. His indifference to office and superiority to many of the petty meannesses which occasionally are to be found in public men were, as is well known to those in habits of intercourse with His Excellency, appreciated by the Lieutenant Governor even at a time when he was assailed by Mr. Smith with unmeasured hostility; and it was with much satisfaction that His Excellency believed that relations of confidence and mutual esteem had been established between them. But His Excellency at the same time perceived with regret, that the strong feelings of Mr. Smith not unfrequently obscured his judgment and tinged his recollections; and that when engaged in political contests he was accustomed to persuade himself and seek to persuade others that those who differed from him were not only argumentatively but morally wrong, and guilty of unfair if not dishonorable conduct towards himself.

His Excellency is unwilling to believe that Mr. Smith had any deliberate intention to deceive either the Lieutenant Governor or his colleagues.

He endeavoured to avert on the one hand a catastrophe which he feared, and on the other a contingency which he regarded with dislike.

He knew that a refusal to undertake a policy of Union would lead to the non-acceptance of Mr. Wilmot's resignation, and the consequent overthrow of his Government; whilst on the other hand he probably thought a door of escape from the adoption of the measure which he dreaded might show itself before any final settlement were effected, or at least that delay might render legislation by the Imperial Parliament during the present year impossible.

In concluding this discussion, His Excellency cannot but remark on the disadvantages under which he labours in its conduct.

The restraints of his position and the sense of self-respect render it impossible for him to employ weapons which may safely be directed against himself. To the vast majority of the people of the Province he is a stranger and unknown. There is no large party to which he can look for support, and from which all his utterances are sure to meet with a ready response;—he is not acquainted with the catch-words and prejudices, an appeal to which raise popular sympathy and applause;—he has to combat the not unnatural or improper jealousy with which in a free state any independent act of a constitutional ruler is regarded,—and he can only rely on that respect which is still accorded to the Representative of the Queen, and to a name which has for generations been a guarantee for the courtesy and honor of those who bear it.

Although, however, the question of the degree to which an unionist policy has been adopted by Mr. Smith, is not unimportant, it is trivial when compared with those which really are at issue and from which it may probably be sought to direct attention. Even had His Excellency known Mr. Smith's opinions to be as hostile now as formerly to Union, it would equally have been his duty to have received with satisfaction the Address of the Legislative Council, and to have refused to listen to advice which counselled him to meet with disapprobation or silence the