

EUROPE.

ENGLAND.

SPEECH OF SIR ROBERT PEEL ON THE AFFAIRS OF CANADA.

I beg to assure the Member (Robinson), who has just concluded, as well as the House at large, that it is because I wish to act upon the advice he has now given me, and it is because I desire to view the subject dispassionately and divested of the difficulties in which it is sought to immerge it, I rise for the purpose of deprecating the continuance of a discussion which, in my humble opinion, is neither likely to conduce to the amicable settlement of the unfortunate difficulties that prevail between the Canadian colonies and the British Government, or to place the question in a point of view which will make it more intelligible or less intricate to those to whom its several bearings are less known. I do hope that this debate will not be continued; but should it meet the wish of the House that it should not here stop, I do trust it will be continued without any further reference to Mr. Papineau or his actions, to the Canadian party as opposed to the English party, or, in short, without reference to any of those exciting and unimportant topics with which it has pleased the Member of Bath to charge his speech. I am however, inclined to hope that the course which His Majesty's Government have resolved upon pursuing in reference to the subject, and which I am now about to announce, will be deemed a conclusive reason why the advice of the Member for Worcester should be generally followed, and why this discussion should at all events be brought to an end. Before, however, I proceed to state the intentions of the Government, I must be allowed to say a few words in answer to an observation of the Member for Bath. Referring to the great delay which has taken place in the settlement of the disputed matter, he attributed it altogether to the frequent changes which had of late years occurred in the Office of Secretary of State for the Colonial Department and concluded by recommending that a fixed office, not determinable on the changes in the Administration, should be created for the management of colonial affairs. Such a remedy I do not hesitate to say is one altogether incapable of adoption. The Executive for the time being, it is quite evident, must, as a body be answerable for the management of the highly important affairs coming under the jurisdiction of the Colonial Department. Now, how could that responsibility be attached to them if they were to have at the head of that department an officer entirely independent of their control, and totally irresponsible to them for any acts which he might direct in the management could not be satisfactory to any of the parties concerned in the colonial matters; and great as might be the inconvenience attendant upon frequent changes in the office of Colonial Secretary, I am prepared to maintain that the remedy proposed would be far from an improvement. I think I can, however, satisfy him that at all events the recent change in the Administration has not prejudiced the consideration of the present question, and that it shall not do so. I am ready, on the part of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to give him every pledge he may desire. On the appointment of Lord Aberdeen he found this Canadian question in precisely the same condition it was left by the Committee which sat in 1830. The Right Hon. Gentleman opposite has stated that when removed from office he was on the eve of proposing to his colleagues in office certain principles on which a settlement of the question should be sought. I believe that to have been the case, but, as he has stated, of those premises no record was left by him at the Colonial Office. For my part, and I am sure I may say the same on the part of my Noble friend, I much wish that such a record was in our possession, because, in addition to the opportunity it would have given us of testifying our respect for the opinions of the Rt. Hon. gent. it could not but materially have assisted us in the task we have to perform. His motive for taking all the documents on the subject no one can question; it was that his successor in office should not be embarrassed by his views in forming his decision; but, much as I am disposed to do credit to the proper spirit which characterized his conduct, I cannot help repeating my regret that Lord Aberdeen should not have had the benefit of his opinions. However, notwithstanding the recent change of Government, and notwithstanding also the arduousness of the duties in which, immediately on his appointment as Secretary for Colonial Affairs, he finds himself involved, I am happy to say measures have already been taken to insure a settlement of the difficulties. On our taking office we felt that the question demanded instant consideration, and we accordingly had it communicated to the colonial authorities that we were determined at an early period to proceed to the settlement of the disputes. With this view we authorized Lord Aylmer to inform them that His Majesty had determined to send out to Canada a Representative totally unconnected with local politics, altogether unembarrassed with local prejudices, and completely unimpaired in Canadian affairs, who should be enabled on the spot to take a whole view of the subject, and, being in full possession of the opinions and intentions of the Government here upon the several matters in dispute, might report upon the best and most satisfactory means for bringing them to a final adjustment. This is the course we propose to adopt. We felt the greatest difficulty in bringing the matter to a conclusion by written communications. There might be misunderstanding on some points, misinterpretation on others, and the distance between the two points rendering the clearing of those misunderstandings and misrepresentations a most tedious and difficult process, we, after mature deliberation, came

to the resolution that it would be better to send out a person in full possession of our views and intentions in the several matters to be adjusted, and enabled to enter into full communication with the Canadian authorities upon them. Our final intention is, upon a report of the real state of the case being made to us, to remove what is justly obnoxious, and in their place to propose those measures which we believe to be consistent with justice to the parties concerned and with sound policy as regards the general interests of the country. Under these circumstances I think the House will feel that I take the most prudent course in declining to enter further in the subject at present, and I at the same time hope they will agree with me in the opinion that the course most likely to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute is that which His Majesty's Government have adopted. We do not mean to disregard the petitions of the Canadian population, but we mean to appeal to their sense of reason and justice; and we firmly believe, that our appeal will prove successful. We will give their claims every just consideration; but at the same time I am bound distinctly to state we do not mean to declare any new principle of Government in the colonies. Our object is to see of what it is the Canadian people complain, and then to see to what extent those complaints are founded in justice. If we find they are not founded in justice, our aim shall be to prevent their continued and useless agitation; but if, on the contrary, we find they are founded on justice, we shall apply ourselves in a spirit of conciliation, and without regard to the epithets of contumely and insult previously heaped upon, to their permanent and satisfactory removal. (Loud cheers.) Having stated thus clearly what is the course resolved upon pursuing in reference to this question, I beg to assure the House I shall not occupy their attention by any comment upon the numerous and unimportant topics introduced by the Member for Bath into his speech. One word, however, a sense of justice compels me to say in defence of the Noble Lord the Member for North Lancashire (Stanley) whose conduct has been so unjustifiably attacked by the Member who originated this discussion, I do not believe that the conduct of any Minister of this country, or any public man, Minister or otherwise, was ever exposed to so severe an ordeal as that of the Noble Lord to whom I allude; and I may further say I doubt if any man could go through such an ordeal with more honor or credit to his character than did the Noble Lord. (Cheers.) While a Minister of the Crown he went before a Committee of the House of Commons indiscriminately chosen having on its list many Members adverse to the policy of the Government with which he was connected—as far as a representative of the average opinions of that House—as fully the representative of the Canadian body as the British party in Canada—before such a Committee the Noble Lord went; and, after producing to them every document, public or private, his office contained, left it to them to judge whether the complaints brought against him were founded in justice or otherwise. (Cheers.) I repeat, I know of no example of a Minister having taken such a course to free himself from accusation, and much less of a Minister, after having taken such a course, passing through the ordeal so honorably to himself and his character, as did the Noble Lord. (Loud Cheers.) As far, therefore, as the accusation of the Member for Bath is concerned, I think the Noble Lord will best consult his own dignity by treating it with indignation or rather contemptuous silence. (Hear, hear.) I would here cease to occupy the attention of the House were it not that there occurs to me one other point in the Member for Bath's speech, which I do not think I ought to pass over without notice. He has been pleased to threaten us that unless every thing the Canadians ask for is granted them, they have determined upon rebellion. Those I think were the expressions of the Hon. and learned Member. He also undertook to assure us that thirteen million inhabitants of the United States of America, a country with which Great Britain at this moment enjoys the profoundest amity, a country with which Great Britain is almost daily interchanging expressions of most friendly feeling, a country with which Great Britain has scarcely a subject of difference—their old jealousies being now removed, and each conscious that the prosperity of the other must influence its own prosperity, reciprocally desiring that peace, tranquility and good order might flourish in the other—such, I say, being the state of the countries, he thinks it fit to declare that if a rebellion should break out in Canada, the whole of the U. S. are prepared to interfere in our domestic quarrels, and join these rebellious Canadians. Now I will not do the United States the injustice to believe, even for a moment that they or any one on their behalf could have authorized him to make such a declaration within the walls of the British House of Commons. (Loud cheers and laughter.) I have too high an opinion of their justice and integrity; but even if that opinion were wanting, I entertain such a sense of their shrewdness, common sense and discretion, that I cannot believe they would select as their organ in this House the Member who has thought proper to represent himself in that capacity. (Cheers and great laughter.) With respect to his declaration of the intention of the Canadians I have also a word to say. I think it is far better for me, instead of being exasperated by the language he has been pleased to put, as it were, into the mouths of the Canadian party, of whom he says he is the representative, and instead of demeaning myself by retorting equally hard words and unworthy expressions, simply and in plainest language to state, that I both hope and trust he has had no authority from that party to tell the British House of Commons that unless all their demands are acceded to, they will have recourse to rebellion, (Loud

cheers.) Indeed, painful as the alternative would be, I would be rather inclined to believe that for the moment, the wisdom and discretion for which he is so remarkable, forsook him, than to suppose that he gave us a correct report of the intentions of his, as he has been pleased to term them, constituents. (Laughter.) But on the other hand, if it should turn out that the Canadian people, or any part of them have instructed him to act in the capacity of their Minister of War, and to declare to the British Parliament that they are prepared to rebel if all their demands are not acceded to—I, as a Minister of the British Government, will meet them, not with any counter declaration of hostility, but, with the hand of peace and friendship grasping theirs, I will say to them "Still we intend to do you justice—still, notwithstanding we derive from your menaces a fresh source of strength—although by your threats you arm us with fresh means of arousing public opinion on our side—and although by your unfounded accusations which in the end will recoil on yourselves, and give us the strength to disregard your vaunting, you induce a fresh conviction of your injustice and intemperance, we are determined to go on unflinchingly in the course we have set out on; and, by removing all fair ground for complaint, take from you even the pretence for asserting that His Majesty's Colonial subjects do not meet from the British Government that consideration and attention to which they are entitled." (The right hon. Baronet resumed his seat amid loud Cheers.)

COLONIAL.

LOWER CANADA.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS.

The copy of the Despatch from the principal Secretary for the Colonies, the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, dated the 14th February last, which we print to-day, was received on Wednesday by His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, and has been put in circulation by being addressed to each of the Members of both Houses of Parliament, CALLED TOGETHER, by Royal Proclamation, FOR DESPATCH OF BUSINESS, ON SATURDAY, THE 30TH DAY OF MAY NEXT. It is, we judge by the Dispatch, by special suggestion of His Excellency Lord Aylmer himself, that the Commissioner, who is to be vested with ample powers to arrange matters, but who yet remains, we learn, unknown to the Executive here, was appointed. No doubt his report will furnish data for His Majesty's Government to proceed to the execution of some measure, calculated speedily to put an end to those deplorable disputes which have raised the finger of scorn upon a people hitherto moderate, loyal and peaceable.

ROYAL COMMISSIONER TO L. CANADA. (Copy.) No. 22. DOWNING STREET, 14th Feb'y. 1835.

MY LORD—In conformity with the pledge given in my Despatch of the 8th January, I can assure your Lordship that His Majesty's Government have not ceased to direct their anxious attention to the discovery of those means which appeared to offer the most reasonable prospect of bringing to a happy termination the existing differences between the House of Assembly of Lower Canada and the Executive Government of the Province. This enquiry has been undertaken with a deep sense of the importance of the object to be attained, and has been prosecuted with the most zealous and earnest endeavors to arrive at a favorable result; but I cannot disguise from your Lordship that throughout the investigation, I have found myself surrounded by no commensurate difficulties.

Your Lordship will recollect that in the year 1828, a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the Civil Government of Canada, which, after a laborious and protracted examination, embodied in their Report various suggestions calculated in their opinion for the improvement of the Administration of the affairs of the Province.

This Report was declared by the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, to be "an imperishable monument of the justice and profound wisdom of the Committee;" and to point out the certain mode of removing all the evils of which the people of Canada had complained. On a future occasion, I may endeavour to shew, and I hope incontrovertibly, the manner in which the recommendations of the Committee have been carried into full effect. At present, I will only observe, that notwithstanding the general enthusiasm with which the appearance of the Report was hailed by the House of Assembly, a spirit of discontent from whatever cause arising, has continued gradually to increase among the Members of that body, until in the last year it has burst forth with a vehemence altogether unparalleled. This spirit was remarkably exhibited in the ninety-two Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly, on the 23d of February, 1834. These Resolutions were referred to a Committee of the House of Commons on the 25th April, and occupied their attention for a considerable time. On the 3d July the Committee closed their labors

with a Report, in which they did full justice to the anxiety of the Home Government, to carry into execution the suggestions of the Select Committee of 1828;—and declared that the endeavors of the Government to that end had been unremitting, and guided in all cases by a desire to promote the interests of the Province. The Committee delivered no opinion upon the subject matter of any one of the Resolutions submitted to their consideration, but lamented that mutual misconception appeared to prevail, which they hoped might be removed; and finally expressed their persuasion that the practical measures for the future administration of the affairs of Lower Canada might best be left to the consideration of the Government, who are responsible for their adoption and execution.

From that period up to the present day I do not find that any measures have been undertaken in compliance with the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons. On the 15th Nov. the day on which the dissolution of the late Administration took place, your Lordship was apprized by Mr. Spring Rice that he was prepared to transmit very full instructions on the various important points upon which it was essential for your Lordship to be informed on the approaching meeting of the Assembly of Lower Canada; but in consequence of the event which had then occurred, he was prevented from making any further communication. Not being aware of the nature and purport of these contemplated instructions, your Lordship will see that I have thus been deprived of the fruits of the matured reflection of my predecessor; and that on my own accession to office, I find this complicated question very much in the same situation in which it was left by the Committee of the House of Commons on the 3d July; with this difference, however, that the difficulties of its solution have been materially aggravated by the additional delay of six months.

In advert to this delay, your Lordship will not understand that it is with the view of imputing blame to any one, but simply for the purpose of expressing my regret that a crisis should now have arrived, in which a prompt decision is rendered indispensable, and that it must be taken at a moment and under circumstances when there exists a peculiar necessity for the most careful review of all that has passed, and for the most deliberate reflection on the consequences of any step that may be adopted.

The painful situation in which your Lordship has long been placed, and the personal relation in which you have been made to stand towards the House of Assembly, form no slight addition to the embarrassments which obstruct the successful termination of the question at issue. It is due, however, to your Lordship to state, that from your first assumption of the Government of Lower Canada, my predecessors in the department over which I now preside have signified their general approbation of the conduct you have pursued in the administration of the affairs of that Province. With satisfaction I add that from an examination of your Lordship's official correspondence, commencing at the period referred to, I can see no reason to dissent from the accuracy of those opinions. At the same time it must be obvious that the exasperated feelings so prevalent in the Assembly, and the alienation of that branch of the Canadian Legislature from the Executive Government, have rendered your Lordship's position so extremely difficult as even to forbid the hope that you would be enabled to employ with any good effect, the words of conciliation and peace. Looking then at the manner of dealing with the whole of this subject, and bearing in mind the circumstances to which I have already adverted, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that the exigencies of the case demand some more decisive and expeditious mode of proceeding than is consistent with an ordinary and regular correspondence. Your Lordship's sentiments have been, more than once expressed to the same effect.

The King has therefore been humbly advised to select an individual possessing His Majesty's entire confidence, who has the advantage of being unconnected with past Canadian politics, and has had the opportunity, by recent personal communications with the members of His Majesty's Government, of ascertaining their views and intentions more fully and unreservedly than could be possible by written statements. This individual, in the capacity of His Majesty's Royal Commissioner, will repair to Lower Canada, fully instructed to examine, and, if possible, to terminate the various points of discussion, in the hope of composing all those differences which have so long agitated the Province, and which have deeply afflicted His Majesty's loyal subjects.

Without attempting to give Your

Lordship even an outline of the instructions of which His Majesty's Extraordinary Commissioner will be the bearer, I may be sufficient to inform you that his mission will not be so much for the purpose of promulgating any new principles of Government as of carrying into effect that system of liberality and justice towards the people of Lower Canada, which His Majesty has long since adopted; and which a Committee of the House of Commons recently declared had characterized the policy and conduct of all those by whom the affairs of this Kingdom have been administered during the last six years. Although the result which has hitherto attended these efforts might perhaps render our hopes of the future less sanguine, it will not diminish the desire or the determination of the King to satisfy all the just claims and expectations of his Canadian Subjects. They will find that his Majesty is unwearied in his endeavors to establish "an impartial, conciliatory and constitutional Government in Canada." For this end it will be the object of His Majesty to renew an enquiry into every alleged grievance, to examine every cause of complaint, and to apply a remedy to every abuse that may still be found to prevail; for this end there is no sacrifice he would not cheerfully make, which should be compatible with the fundamental principles of the Constitution itself, and with the continued existence of the Province as a possession of the British Crown.

I am unwilling to believe that the Canadian people can be insensible to feelings so truly paternal, which, as your Lordship well knows, have not been recently adopted or on the spur of the occasion, and for which we may reasonably hope that His Majesty will be rewarded by the loyalty and attachment of all classes in the important Province now under your immediate Government.

Your Lordship will communicate this despatch to the House of Assembly in the usual manner. Although without any direct information on the subject from your Lordship, I learn from other sources of intelligence, that the Legislature will have met on the 27th of January. Should their sittings have been adjourned, you will take such means as may appear most proper for bringing the despatch under the knowledge of the members, before the period of their reassembling in Parliament.

I will not fail to give Your Lordship timely notice of the probable arrival of His Majesty's Commissioner, in order that you may be enabled to convoke the Assembly with the least possible inconvenience to its members.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Lieutenant General
LORD AYLMER, K. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.

GARDEN SEEDS.

THE SUBSCRIBER is daily expecting a supply of Garden Seeds imported from the North of Scotland.

FRANCIS BEVERLY
Fredericton, 29th April. 1835.

FOR SALE.

73 ACRES of superior Land on the River Nashwaak, being a part of the Campbell property, bounded on the upper side by John Young, and having 170 Rods front, being a large proportion of interval.

ALSO:
100 Acres of Land formerly owned by Donald Fraser, on which there is large clearings and a good Barn.

—ALSO—
200 Acres of Land, being Lots 166 and 167 on the River Nashwaak, lately owned by Donald McLeod. Any person wishing to purchase any of the above Land will apply to WILLIAM J. BEEDELL at Fredericton.
15th April. 1835.

COLLEGE RENTS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that unless all Persons indebted to the College for arrears of Rents and Interests of money do, within one month from the date hereof, pay the amounts due from them respectively up to the 24th day of March instant, at the office of the Subscriber in Fredericton, legal proceedings will be taken to recover the same.

GEORGE FREDERICK STREET,
Fredericton, 31st March, 1835.

LAND FOR SALE.

ROBERT RANKIN & Co. have a number of Lots of LAND in the County of Carleton, which they wish to dispose of. Any Person wishing to purchase will be informed of the situations and conditions, by applying to WILLIAM J. BEEDELL at Fredericton.
24th March, 1835.

FOR SALE.

A Valuable building Lot, 50 by 150 feet, belonging to the Subscriber, situate in Queen-street, adjoining the property of Mr. Thomas M. Wright. Terms and other particulars made known on application to JOHN BARRETT.

Fredericton, April 22d, 1835.