

Fredericton

Dec^r 5. 1864.

My dear M^r Cardwell

I am ashamed of the amount of trouble to which I have put you, ~~as~~ far as regards private letters. - I have to thank you most heartily for your last very kind one.

Reading your despatch by the light of your private letter, I certainly considered you to imply that the salary question ought ^{in the first instance} not to have been raised; but at all events I have good reason

think you will find fault with

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to be certain that its publication
would have neutralized any good
effect of the concession itself. I do
not wonder at this not being apparent
to you, for it is not very reasonable;
but nevertheless the fact is so, and
I am very grateful to you for your
acquiescence in my wish.

To turn to the more important
question of Federation. You know
Monck far better than I do, and
even if you did not it, is not
my province to describe him
to you. Now, however, he could

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have written that you need not
expect a Federation to be proposed
to you paranth means understanding,
- at least it paranth mine. You will
see that the small amount of its
interference with local independence
is urged as its recommendation
both in Lower Canada, and here!

The only Constitutional changes
proposed here, if the Federation be
adopted, ^{are} ~~is~~ the diminution of the
Executive Council to seven members,
instead of nine, and the
diminution of the Legislative
Council to fifteen. But within

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their own sphere this government is
to be wholly free from control, for
the Veto of the Governor General will
of course be sparingly used if used
at all. I went over the Acts passed
at the last session here, with Tilley
and we found that, were the new
system at work, only five of them
would have been held to deal
with matters committed to the
central government; - the remaining
fifty four would still have been
under the cognizance of the local
legislature.

In the New Zealand constitution
the local assemblies are subject
to be overruled by that at Auckland
equality with a house of commons
than a mere "Legislative Council"
ever can be. If this be found
impossible then I cannot see

ourselves. I believe the General means to stand in any case.

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and herein is the main, and as it appears to me fatal, difference between that scheme and the one now recommended for adoption.

As regards the Militia, I do not think you will find fault with the tone or "spirit" of my separate despatch, which you will ere this have received. Statistics are often very misleading things. The figures put before ^{you} exhibited truly the relative condition of the provinces with regard to defence; they did not show you their relative condition three years ago, when the reorganization

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began. It is not by our actual condition
~~but~~ by its comparison with the past
that I would have our efforts judged.

Moreover, I may add that the
^{even now}
Nova Scotia volunteers, deal more
largely than we do in paper
companies.

I am watching with the
greatest interest and anxiety
to see what you will do with
Western Australia & Victoria

Ever most sincerely yrs

Arthur Gordon

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5 Dec. 1864 Hon. A. H. Gordon

Salary

Confederation

Militia