

Arthur Gordon

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Frederickton

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(copy)

Private

London 12 Nov. 1864

Rt. Hon. E. Cardwell to

Hon. A. Gordon

My dear Gordon

I have received with great regret your last letter, because it seems to me that you feel hurt in two matters, in which nothing was further from my intention than to give you the smallest reason to feel so.

In respect of your salary, - I wrote you a Despatch, coming to the conclusion to which you wished me to come: & I naturally inserted those ~~reasons~~ considerations which tended towards that conclusion, & not those which would have tended to support its opposite. It never occurred to me that it was calculated to wound the feelings of yourself, or your advisers, or to reflect in the smallest degree upon the decision of my Predecessor. Nor do I see now when I read it over again with the light of your confidential remonstrance that it was calculated to do so.

However I readily agree to alter it as you desire. I am afraid you are little better pleased with my private letter: which I wrote for no other reason than the desire to do what I thought would be agreeable

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to you; viz. to convey to you my opinion on the whole matter, & especially to say why I thought you were right in not insisting upon the view which, with the full support of the Colonial Office, you had taken in 1862.

I assure you I wrote solely with that object: & if I had supposed it possible my private letter could have been otherwise than agreeable to you, I should not have written it.

You must allow me in my own vindication, to remind you that I am now adopting your own views & carrying into effect your own wishes: & that I am in no way responsible for the difficulty which has arisen.

Nor was it, I assure you, in my contemplation to give you the smallest annoyance by what I wrote about the Militia. I caused a Memorandum to be prepared in the N. American Department upon the defences of the Provinces. That memorandum contained all the facts, which are stated in my Despatch: & I have called upon the Department now to state to me again whether there is any error in the statements made. They assure me

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that there is not: & surely if the state of facts be such as I there describe, an appeal from me to your Government was called for on my part. If I had drawn an invidious distinction between yourself & your advisers, it would probably not have been for your advantage in your communications with them; - & if I had complimented the Colony generally on the progress of its defensive preparations, it would not have been accepted as sincere.

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However, I shall await your reply. I hope it will be conceived in the spirit in which I assure you my Despatch was intended: & if you show me that compliments to the progress actually made are called for by the facts, you may depend upon my being most ready to acknowledge past efforts, as well as to endeavour to stimulate future. I shall do so with the utmost pleasure.

Your Confidential Despatch on the Union of the N. Provinces contains sentiments about Federation, in which you know that I am already prepared to concur. But Monck's letters assure me that I need not expect a Federation to be proposed to me. His official report is about to be forwarded: & I am not fully

informed what it will contain. But Monck
entirely agrees with you as to the importance of
Union, distinguished from Federation, & is very
sanguine as to the result of the Conference.

Of course it signifies very little what name is
employed. What we wish is a Central & strong
Government, as distinguished from a number
of small states united by a feeble bond.

Pray give me credit in future for meaning
all that is kind in my communications public,
& private & believe me to be your very truly

Edward Cardwell

Hon A. A. Gordon

My dear

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