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will ensue. ~~before you determine~~ 7

I am more than ever anxious
to get away from this degrading position
I hold that European analogies don't
apply here, but in so far as they do, the
position of the Governor is less like that
of the Queen than that of Louis XVI

(Copy)

C. O. 14 Oct '64

Private

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My dear Gordon

I have rec^d with much interest
your account of the pending negotiations
in N. America, as seen from your
point of view. It is much less
sanguine than Monck's: & this,
I think, was to be expected. The bold,
ambitious, leaders of public opinion
in Canada are more likely to wish for
a complete fusion, wh. would extend
their powers, - than are the ministers
& parliament-men of New Brunswick
whose occupation would in that
case be ended. Meanwhile we all
agree in favouring a complete fusion,
not a federation.

I have very much regretted the loss

of Sir Charles MacCarthy, a most valuable public servant, & especially valuable in Ceylon, which just now requires a practical hand: and no one knew Ceylon so well as he.

The course I have taken about it you shall freely know. The first person in the Colonial service to whom I thought it right to address myself was Mr. Head. He was gratified by the offer, but after taking time to consider, ultimately declined it, on the ground chiefly of Lady Head's health. I next considered which of all the Colonial Governors, looking to length of service, to Eastern

you should know the consequences which will ensue. before you determine. 7

I am more than ever anxious to get away from this degrading position. I hold that European analogies don't apply here, but in so far as they do, the position of the Governor is less like that of the Queen than that of Louis XVI.

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experience & success in Oriental Government, had the strongest claims on H. M. Govt. & was most likely to deal successfully with the difficulties, wh. now are emergent in Ceylon. Sir Hercules Robinson, the Govt. of Hong Kong, appeared to me to answer these requirements best. His term of office in Hong Kong is shortly about to expire, and after the ability with which he has discharged his duties there, he is entitled to look for promotion. I have therefore submitted his name to the Queen. In doing this, I have not gratified any personal feeling, for I am

not acquainted with Sir Hercules Robinson;
but I am satisfied I have done what
was right, both by Ceylon, & by that
profession of which you have become
a member, the profession of Colonial
Government.

I hope you will accept the fullness
& freedom of my communication to
you now as a proof that I am
not unmindful of personal feelings
& of private friendships, even when
I am not able to give effect to what
might be my own personal choice.
I feel that I ought to keep myself
free from promises, because the
power which I hold is a public
trust: - and therefore I will say
no more at present than that
I will not forget the wish wh.
you express to be rather in a

I am
to get away
I told that I
here, but
position of the
of the Queen
during the
helpless, and
a triumph of

I shall
your separate
Militia.
which I
approval
as I thought

My dear

Letter of
supposing
being forced
wished to

reply, and it is as well at all events that
~~before you determine~~
you should know the consequences which
will ensue. ~~before you determine~~ 7

I am more than ever anxious
to get away from this degrading position.
I hold that European analogies don't
apply here, but in so far as they do, the
position of the Governor is less like that
of the Queen than that of Louis XVI
during the constitution of 1791; utterly
helpless, and that helplessness felt to be
a triumph over the past by the people.

I shall reply by the next mail to
your separate despatch about the
Militia. If there was one thing in
which I thought I might have merited
approval it was in my constant and
as I thought rather successful efforts

to organize a militia force, and I was
proportionately surprised ~~by~~ the despatch
which without a word of acknowledgment
of what has been done comments on
our unsatisfactory "progress". I do not
say that our actual condition as
regards the militia is ^{not} behind that of
some other colonies, but I think I can
show you that our progress in the
last two years has been great.

Colonel Jenois was here just twelve
hours from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. so we
did not benefit much from his
assistance.

Yrs very sincerely
Althwart Gordon