20. July 1866

W. Cardwell

I enclose you a draft of the Heads of a Bill for the Confederation of the N. American Provinces, with the Cabinet and which we are prepared provided that the N. American Delegates shall sufficient time to allow of the passing of ly cordially accept the proposed note

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Copy

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Confidential

66. Grosvenor Street. W

19. July 1866.

Dear W. Cardwell

I gathered yesterday from Addersley that I had not quite clearly understood the purport of your last note Dms on the subject of N. American Confederation.

My view is simply this - I am extremely anxious to use the present opportunity and to put the matter beyond the risk of Cavour while the Delegates are in Engd, and I am ready to urge

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...ne the Cabinet and which we are prepared
...ovided that the N. American Delegates reach
...cient time to allow of the passing of
...y cordially accept the proposed mode

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(Copy)

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Favourable circumstances &c.
difficulty in maturing the scheme &
giving & every part of it that
consideration which is necessary
at the present period of the
Session and I sd. be consequently
very wrong in undertaking the
task unless able fully to count
upon the assistance of yourself &
your friends. I write only in my own name.
I ought to add that I sd. not
be prepared to introduce my
bill until the arrival of the

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...ure will be ...

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My colleagues to agree to a bill such
as I described to you provided always
that I can assure them of the entire
support of yourself, Ld. Russell and
Yr. late Government generally.
It wd. in my opinion be a thing to
be extremely deplored if after
introducing such a bill opposition
of a serious nature were to arise
(and at such a time delay wd. be
tantamount to serious opposition)
and the measure were to miscarry.
There is, as you will easily
understand, even under the most

wile Fallon in Ireland, the
as; once in London, the

for Parliament whether

—assuming always that they do arrive in time—

Delegates in Engd. and their consent
received & this mode of proceeding.
with regard to the details w.h I s.d
propose to learn & be directed by
O. in C., but the magnitude &
importance of wh I am fully
alive, I must of course be much
guided by the feeling of the
Delegates: but my foremost object
wd. be to strengthen, as far as is
practicable, the central govt.
against the excessive power or the
encroachments of the local
administrations. Believe me
dear Mr. Cardwell Yrs. sincerely
Carnarvon