Privat

C. O.

20. July 1866

Dear Mr. Cardwell

I enclose you a draft of the heads of a bill for securing the Confederation of the N. American Provinces, wh. I have laid before the Cabinet and which we are prepared to introduce, provided that the N. American delegates reach this country in sufficient time to allow of the passing of the measure & that they cordially accept the proposed mode of proceeding. Lastly, as I have before said, the passing and consequently the introduction of the bill must be dependant upon whether or no I may count upon the cordial support of yourself and of the late colleagues.

Under ordinary circumstances it w? be unusual to look for such assistance, but you are as fully aware as I am of the great importance in an imperial

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point of view of securing the consideration of the Provinces and of the risk of failure if the question is postponed to next session: and after the communications that have passed between us I hope I am not wrong in taking this one further step towards the object which I believe we both have in view.

If, with the acquiescence of the Delegates, I cd. see my way to any reduction of the general powers granted in sect VI. page 4 to the Provincial Govts. I sd. be glad to do so, with the view of adding strength to the central Govt.: but this must depend upon them. The bill as it stands is founded on those parts of the Quebec Resns. on which, so far as I know, no material difference of opinion has yet existed. If there is any particular point, to wh. an object and which is not vital to the scheme,

I shall, be perfectly ready to reconsider it in the wish of bringing, if possible our views into harmony & under the belief that the settlement of this great question is, and is regarded by you to be, a matter which must be dealt with by any Govt. and is beyond the province of fair party contention.

The draft is of course as much for the confidential consideration of q: late colleagues as yourself.

I remain dear Mr. Cardwell

Q: very sincerely

Carnarvon