Private
Ottawa. July 21. 1866

My dear Lord Carnarvon

Private

C. O.
7 July 1866.

3

7 July
Lt Monck

My dear Lord

Though personally I have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with you I will not lose a mail in introducing myself as best I may to your lordship. I have not yet had time as you will readily understand to go into any details of office Work: but Knowing the importance of present affairs in Canada I have once given my attention to some of the principal questions with which you are concerned. Of them it appears to me that there are those which are urgent.

1. The treatment of the Fenian Prisoners — I think I understand yr general position — the difficulties on the one side of Canadian feeling, on the other of American pressure upon Mr Johnson & his Govt and in this view I have written the accompanying despatch to facilitate you to carry out that ~~policy~~ policy of moderation with which

You

No 8.

Lord Monck

& Mr Cardwell

You are already impressed, & which appears to me especially necessary at this moment. The President & his Govt. appear to be so desirous of acting fairly by us, though at the same time so liable to pressure from domestic opponents, that I shd regret much to see recourse had to the exceptional remedy of a court martial for the Prisr. unless some new circumstances of urgent necessity arise, and even when you come to the question of punishment I hope you will find yrself able to use yr influence in the direction of leniency. Under all circumstances our principal object at this moment should be to secure the interposition of whatever delay is possible. Angry feeling on both sides of the border will thus have time to cool & the final decision, whatever it may be, will be more easily carried out. Anyhow, I trust that you will be able

7 19

Private
Ottawa. July 21. 1866

My dear Lord Carnarvon

4

able to escape altogether from the necessity of capital punishment.

2. The Question of Confederation. On this I agree with what I perceive is your wish & I believe to be Mr Cardwell's strong opinion. It seems to me to be of very great ~~importance~~ consequence that if in any way possible the necessary measure shd be passed this session. It is now so late & the pressure of business so heavy that there will be extreme difficulty in doing this: but if I can possibly see my way to it I shall make the attempt. I have just seen yr last private letter to Mr Cardwell, stating yr intention to leave for this country in time to be here by the 25th instant. to bring with you the delegates from Canada & N. Scotia – those from N. Brunswick having – a understanding

№ 8.

2nd March

Mr Lindsell

understood already started. I should not under the circumstances have thought it right to urge him to do this, feeling as I do the uncertainty of Ys being able to carry the confederation scheme, but I own that I shall be very glad to see him & those gentlemen if Hon Ds arrive by that date: & I shd regret if the news of the recent change of Govt here at home were to cause to vary Ys plans.

I have written very lastly & very short mail & there are several matters on which I shd have been glad to communicate with you had time permitted. Meanwhile I wish to add my hope that you will allow our Communications on these similar matters to be as full & unreserved as they were with my predecessor: & may believe that I shall highly value the expression of any opinion in the 897 Ho. You may be [illegible] to favor me.

Yours truly
[illegible]