

FROM HENRY DUNDAS TO J. G. SIMCOE.

WHITEHALL, 5th May, 1792.

To Lieut. Govr. Simcoe.
Lt. Govr. Clarke.

Sir,

In addition to such Instructions and Documents as I have already transmitted to you respecting the good Offices intended to be interposed by His Majesty between the American States and the Indians and the Objects proposed by such a measure I send you herewith Copies of Lord Grenville's Letter to Mr. Hammond and of Lord Dorchester's to me on the same subject with the Observations of Captn Mann¹ on the Posts on the Frontier towards Lake Champlain. These with the Charts accompanying them will be of considerable assistance to you in forming a correct Judgement of the local situation and circumstances of the present boundary Line in that quarter and of what is suggested as the most desirable one if it can be obtained.

You are already aware that the great object to be attended to is to secure such a Barrier against the American States by the intervention of the Indians or where they are more thinly scattered by the strength and situation of the Country to be interposed as may render encroachments on either side very difficult at least if not impracticable.

In Co-operating therefore with Mr. Hammond you will take care to furnish him with all particulars relative to those parts which your situation best enables you to procure.

This will be the more peculiarly necessary in ascertaining what frontier would be the most desirable, and what in degree would be less so, in those quarters more particularly specified in the enclosed Letters from Lord Grenville and Lord Dorchester. In doing this it will be necessary to accompany your Plans and observations with the Objections which you conceive might be made to them by the American States as well as with what you conceive may be said in Answer to such Objections.

I am &c.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Endorsed:—Dra. to Lt. Govr. Clarke & Lt. Govr. Simcoe, May, 1792.

For Mr. Secretary Dundas's consideration to go to-morrow.

FROM J. G. SIMCOE TO PHINEAS BOND.

QUEBEC, May 7, 1792.

Sir,

The information which Captain Stevenson has given me, that many of the people of the Society of Friends or Quakers have thoughts of settling in Upper Canada, appears to me of so much importance to the future prosperity of that Province, that I am sure you will pardon me, to whom His Majesty has been most

¹Gother Mann, 1747-1830, ensign Royal Engineers, 1763; lieut., 1771; capt., 1777; commanding Royal Engineer at Quebec, 1785-1791; served in Flanders under the Duke of York, 1793-4; lt. colonel, 1793; commanding Royal Engineer in Canada, 1794-1804; colonel, 1797; made many of the maps and plans of fortifications which are yet preserved; lt. general, 1810; Inspector General of Fortifications, 1811-30; general, 1826.

graciously pleased to confide its Government, addressing myself to you without further introduction.

I take the opportunity of transmitting the late Act of Parliament, by which Upper Canada has been severed from the Lower Province, and which may be considered as the Magna Charta, under which that Colony will immediately be admitted to all the privileges that Englishmen enjoy, and be confederated and united, I earnestly pray and believe, forever with Great Britain. The British Parliament, it may be observed, has only retained to itself the power and authority for the regulation of commerce between Foreign Countries and the respective Provinces. The net produce of revenue so raised to be applied by the Colonial Legislature to the uses of the respective Colony. The King and Parliament, by these means, have provided as much as human foresight can do, that industry may not be defeated of its honest acquisitions. It is to be observed that the British Parliament, in the 42d clause, which it secures beyond the possibility of any Provincial interference, the protection and endowment which the Civil Compact of the British Constitution affords to the established Church, and that, in a manner the least burthensome to the subject, by the King's benevolence, in the allotment of lands for that purpose, at the same time it as effectually provides for the security of the natural rights of Christians to worship God in their own way, by reserving to itself the sole power of giving legal authority to any Acts which may respect or interfere with such mode of worship, and it offers, as a pledge of its justice in this essential point, the reasonable toleration which has for such a long time existed under the Government of Great Britain, and which is too well known by all who have been so happy as to have been born under its authority to require the necessity of illustration. I have thought proper to remark on these two parts of the Act, to shew how cautiously the British Parliament has proceeded in the communication of its power to Upper Canada, in precluding any probability of persecution for religious tenets affecting the internal peace of the Colony, and by preventing any competition in matters of commerce or revenue between the separate Provinces that might be injurious to either, and wound that confidence which, it is natural to believe, will ever subsist between them. With the Act of Parliament, I transmit the only Proclamation which I have hitherto issued, relative to the granting of the Crown Lands.

The Colony of Upper Canada is founded by those emigrants from the Provinces, lately belonging to Great Britain, who were averse to the disunion of the Empire and the dethronement of the revered family of Brunswick. The requests of the settlers of this description have been amply provided for by Grants of the lands of the Crown, and there are vacant lands to an almost immeasurable amount ready to be immediately allotted to those who shall prefer the British Constitution in Upper Canada. A seventh of these lands are to be reserved for the Crown, principally as a foundation for a revenue that may be applied to the exigencies of the Colony. Another seventh, agreeable to the Act of Parliament, to provide for the Protestant Clergy; the remainder to be allotted in general agreeable to the Proclamation. There is great reason to suppose that many thousand acres of very valuable tracts of ungranted lands lie upon the northern shore of Lake Erie. The vicinity of this Lake to the back part of Pennsylvania, very naturally renders this a desirable circumstance to those who have connections in that Province of the United States, and settlers of such a description may be of use in that very favorite object of the just policy of Great Britain, the renewing every intercourse language, old connection, and consanguinity can possibly suggest between the two countries.

On Lake Ontario, there is a vast extent of valuable country from Toronto to the Bay of Quinte, ungranted. The oak of this country has found its way to Quebec, and its wheat, of admirable quality, sells to the merchant millers in the vicinity of that Capital, at 6d a bushel beyond that of Lower Canada, paying by these means the difference of its distance from the Ocean, and promising to become a most valuable staple.

The principles of the British Constitution require the utmost attention to the public interest in those who administer any part of the Government, and the very form of the Government secures the subject, as far as human intentions admit, from all undue exercise of authority, rendering the most powerful equally with the impotent amenable to public justice, yet it shall be some satisfaction to those who shall emigrate to a new country to know that the wishes of those who are appointed to administer the sacred trust of its government, go hand in hand, as well as their interest and duty, in support of those principles on which its prosperity must be constituted. Here, Sir, I am happy in believing that my ardent and undeviating attachment to the American Loyalists is not unknown in Pennsylvania, and will therefore readily obtain credit to my affirmation that the hopes of serving my King, my country and mankind, by giving every protection and encouragement that the Station I fill can admit of to those who have preferred the British Constitution, is a principal motive of my accepting the Government of Upper Canada. The principles of the British Constitution do not admit of that slavery which Christianity condemns.

From the moment that I assume the Government of Upper Canada, under no modification will I ever assent to a law that discriminates by dishonest policy between the natives of Africa, America, or Europe.

It will be my unremitting endeavour to carry into execution the justice which Great Britain has always inculcated should be observed to the uncivilized Indian, and to use the best means in my power to ameliorate his condition by such gradations as may tend to incorporate and civilise, rather than to degrade or extirpate a fellow creature. His Majesty's Ministers, at my express request have directed 400 soldiers, under such officers whom I have recommended as suited by their morals and capacity for the business, to be raised for the express purpose of facilitating the Civil Establishment of the Province, and for that purpose, they are to be totally free from the Garrison duties of the Barrier Forts. They are to be employed in the opening of the public roads, the construction of bridges, and of public buildings, and ultimately in facilitating the navigation of the Province. My design is to educate these soldiers to labour, so that two thirds of their time may be employed for their own and the public benefit; to have them taught occupations such as may be useful to the community, and to regulate their work, by stated prices, so as to reduce as much as possible the rate of wages in the infant Colony. I mean to erect a regimental school to instruct these young soldiers in learning sufficient for their station, and I hope to make it apparent that the military education may train up soldiers to become most useful citizens. I am permitted to discharge them whenever they find a proper substitute, and to allow them 50 acres of land for a settlement, so that under this encouragement I trust that the military service may for a few years be an eligible method of education for the lower classes of the community. It is obvious by these means that colonization will be much advanced, as this Corps will always be able to supply useful artizans at an easy rate, to any part of the settlements that may require them. The first employment

of a part of this Corps will be, it is presumed, the working of an immensely valuable salt spring, not far distant from Ontario, that this necessary article may be rendered to the settlers without monopoly or impost, that excepted, which may be necessary to defray the trifling expences of those who shall work it. If the Society of Friends should prefer the Government of Upper Canada, they will have a just right to such exemptions from bearing arms, as they have hitherto met with under the ancient Government of the British States. Thus, Sir, I have traced a few of the particulars which I think may be necessary to be known to those who shall prefer the settlement in Upper Canada. The extension of the British Constitution and its form as far as may be useful and proper for the general welfare of the Empire, needs no commentary. I have somewhat expatiated on these additional means by which the hands of Government will be strengthened to promote the rapid colonization of the country and eventually to rear up internal force sufficient to protect it from all hostility. I think it not improper to observe that Great Britain is again aloft, that her power is sufficient to secure her subjects above all hazards whatsoever, from any combinations of force, which envy, or the arts of interested traitors may attempt to raise up against her, should such again be the base indisposition of the times, and on the other hand, it may be a matter of serious import to those who found their morality on the dictates of Revelation, that such a pre-eminence on the part of Great Britain is not likely to be abused or involve her in foreign quarrels. The well known disposition of the most benevolent of Sovereigns, the principles of Government and the opinions of the subjects of Great Britain all uniting to promote general peace among mankind. Should all Nations be permitted to combine in one view of universal peace and good will, to whom would result as its consequence the greatest and most permanent advantages? It is obvious to Great Britain, whose subjects, in morality and industry, and in the form of Government which naturally flows from them, and is best adapted to their security, claim as their birthright the priority of the world. I need offer no apology, I am sure, to you, Sir, for thus transmitting to be used as you shall see occasion, what I conceive may tend to His Majesty's interests: they will be essentially promoted by the speedy condensation of a numerous, virtuous, agricultural people in Upper Canada, and such, I have experience, are the inhabitants of Pennsylvania. I have only to add, that should any Society wish to emigrate, I should be happy to see those persons who should be authorized under mutual confidence for that purpose, and to give my best assistance to promote their views and establishment.

I am, &c., &c.

J. GRAVES SIMCOE.

To Mr. Bond¹, Pennsylvania.

¹Phineas Bond was born in Philadelphia and educated as a physician in England and the Continent of Europe. His professional reputation was great. He was one of the founders of the University of Pennsylvania and became a professor in it. He was a firm loyalist and signed a parole in 1777, but notified the Council of Safety that he did not consider himself bound by it, as his liberty had been restrained contrary to the promise given when it was presented to him. In 1786 he was appointed British Consul for the Middle States, with his office at Philadelphia, and the question of his recognition as such was warmly debated in Congress in the following session. Mr. Jay from the committee reported in favour of it. Mr. Madison opposed it in the public interest, he said. Mr. Varnum objected on account of Mr. Bond's "obnoxious character." Mr. Bond was at the same time nominated as Commissary for Commercial Affairs, which Mr. Jay thought was designed to confer some of the powers of a Minister to the United States and advised that he should not be recognized in that capacity. He was finally recognized as Consul only. During the excitement following the attack on the Chesapeake a mob assembled before his door and played the "Rogue's March" with insulting remarks. He died in England in 1816.