

ORANGE LODGES, CANADA.

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RETURN to an ADDRESS of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 7 August 1839;—for,

COPIES of DESPATCHES from Sir *George Arthur*, relating to ORANGE  
LODGES in *Canada*, since the 17th day of May 1837.

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed, 17 August 1839.

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(No. 150.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George Arthur*, K.C.H.,  
to the Marquess of *Normanby*.

Government House, Toronto,

1 July 1839.

My Lord,

AS there appears to be considerable and increasing excitement prevailing among the party in this Province, who, styling themselves reformers, include a considerable number of known republicans, which may call forth the manifestation of hostile feeling on the part of those who differ from their views, I have thought it right, in anticipation of the approaching anniversary of the Orangemen, to issue an earnest exhortation to them to endeavour to allay irritation, and to check as much as possible all strong expression of display of party feeling.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of this document, which, as your Lordship will perceive, is couched in the form of a circular letter, addressed by me to the magistrates of the different districts throughout the Province, and which has been transmitted to them through the respective clerks of the peace, accompanied with an injunction to the latter to make the substance of it generally known.

I have likewise caused the same document to be communicated to the Mayor and Corporation of the city of Toronto.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Geo. Arthur*.

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Enclosure.

Gentlemen,

Government House, 24 June 1839.

ADVERTING to violations of the peace, which, on several occasions last year, were the consequence of certain public processions on the 12th July, I consider myself called upon to express my views upon the subject.

I cannot but feel a very deep regret that any cause should be allowed to exist for the recurrence of annual scenes which must necessarily have the effect of producing discord, and a feeling of ill-will, amongst the different classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

In the present condition of this Province, whether it be considered as regards the state of political feeling, or of religious sentiment, there is no one subject which requires greater attention from all truly loyal men, than the cultivation of kindly feelings towards each other. It therefore becomes imperatively the duty of every one, whatever may be his station or means, to carry out such a principle of action, and to encourage and foster such feelings.

The short, but eventful history of this Province, during the last 18 months, obviously shows that the great body of the people, without distinction of creed or party, were found remarkable for their fidelity to the Government, and their firmness in subduing domestic

as well as foreign enemies. Each class, therefore, should entertain for the high and generous qualities of the others those sentiments of respect to which they must necessarily feel themselves entitled.

Strongly impressed with these views, I would affectionately, yet earnestly, intreat the members of the associations alluded to, to consider seriously the very mischievous tendency of the divisions, by which they thus contribute to the agitation of the community, and to determine that they shall be no longer continued.

All persons must be aware that societies, similar in character, have been, for some time past, generally dissolved in the mother country. They originated in a peculiar state of things, which has passed away. Their existence, in the altered circumstances of the country, having been found to be pregnant with many injurious effects on the public welfare, they were put an end to.

Considering the state of our circumstances, it seems hardly possible to conceive that any friend to the best interests of this Province can wish to maintain here associations which are inapplicable to our social or religious condition, and which have been discountenanced by the highest authority in the country of their origin.

Whilst I am ever willing to recognise the good intentions of that class by which these associations are cherished, I must appeal to their good sense and correct principles for a willing compliance with my request.

It surely is not too much, in times like the present, when, at any hour, every man may be required to go forth with his neighbour in defence of his Queen and country, to call upon all to abstain from any proceedings calculated to revive past dissensions, or to rekindle animosities, which time and change of country should altogether extinguish.

For these reasons, it is my desire that each of the magistrates in the district should, by every means within his power, endeavour to make known my earnest wishes in this respect; and my hope, that by the mild measures of persuasion, those processions may be discontinued, which have hitherto tended so greatly to provoke animosity and unkindly feeling.

To the Magistrates of the District  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *George Arthur.*

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(No. 86.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquess of *Normanby* to Lieutenant-Governor Sir *George Arthur*, К. С. Н.

Sir,

Downing-street, 28 July 1839.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 1st instant, No. 150, enclosing a copy of a circular letter addressed by you to the magistrates of Upper Canada, with a view to prevent the display of those party feelings, and the excitement of those party processions, which in former years have occurred at this season.

Previously to the receipt of your despatch, I had intended to write to you on the subject of statements which have appeared in the public papers relative to the continuance of Orange lodges in Upper Canada, and the excitement and irritation arising from them. I am happy to find that the suggestions which I had proposed to offer to you on this subject are now unnecessary. I entirely approve of the course which you have adopted, and of the tone of your communication to the magistrates; and I cannot but hope that an exhortation, framed in such a spirit, and proceeding from such a quarter, will have been sufficient to prevent any demonstration, of which the tendency is to excite and exasperate civil and religious animosity between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Normanby.*

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Colonial Office, Downing-street, }  
14 August 1839. }

H. LABOUCHERE.

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(*Mr. O'Connell.*)

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