# 1874

Tuesday 27 January (Bretby)

All England seems in a state of excitement. In a few days the election will begin.[357] I do not like either Gladstone's or Disraeli's addresses.[358] Gladstone offers a bribe of £5,000,000 in the shape of remission of tax and Disraeli at once caps it. It is what we said at the passing of the last Reform bill, that the Constitution would be put up to auction at each general election.

Friday 6 February (London)

Dined at the Derbys who were quite alone [. . .]. After dinner when alone Derby introduced the real question by saying he wondered whether either would have Office. I replied in joke and then he asked me if Salisbury in my opinion would join. I said I could not say but I inclined to think it was not hopeless. He then said something to effect that an offer anyhow would be made but it was a question how and whether it would be pressed. I said that though I could not answer for him I thought it was possible he might join, that as Derby knew it was owing mainly to me that some two or three years since he had come up from the gangway to the front opposition bench and that if there was a real anxiety to get him the attempt would be perhaps most likely to succeed if made in some measure at least through me. To this Derby cordially assented. He however expressed some doubt whether Salisbury was really worth a large price. I said I thought he decidedly was worth it, that whatever his present good intentions he must, if outside, soon become a critic and the involuntary leader of all that unappropriated balance of Conservative feeling in the House which though discontented and generally passive occasionally became a very difficult element. The upshot of the whole was that Office would

[357] Gladstone had informed his colleagues of his decision to dissolve Parliament on 26 January. The following morning, he issued his election manifesto. The move took Disraeli by surprise.

[358] Disraeli wrote to Lady Chesterfield, 'I agree with Carnarvon that Gladstone's Manifesto is very ill-written, but I do not agree with Carnarvon that it is not in his usual style. I think his usual style the worst of any public man' (Zetland, I, p. 49).

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beyond doubt be offered to me, that it would be offered to Salisbury but whether as a mere form or as a reality was uncertain.

No one could be pleasanter or more like himself than Derby was.

Sunday 8 February (London)

In the afternoon had a long conversation with Salisbury who returned yesterday from France. I stated to him the great probability that an offer of office would be made to us, and then the objections to our acceptance with the counter-reasons for doing so. The objections were 1. that we could not really trust Disraeli. To this it might be said that one could trust the prime minister; that he is now in a different position as a minister with a majority from a fortune hunter in a minority, and that G. Hardy and Derby would be a sort of support if not guarantee against violent changes. 2. that it will be said that we are inconsistent. To this he attached little weight. 3. what is our duty? by standing aloof he must cause a split in the party and would certainly waste great power which he might politically otherwise exercise. *On the whole* I inclined towards acceptance. *On the whole* he leant the other way on two grounds. 1. that D. might play us a trick as before and that our last card of resignation was played out. 2. that we should be placed in a position of servitude, that it would be an act of submission and that he might then retaliate against us. Nothing could be kindlier or even more affectionate than his manner. He promised to consider the whole case, and he urged me repeatedly to remember that my case was not his, and that even if he did not join I might. Finally he said that if anything should be said he should do nothing without communicating with me.[359]

Monday 9 February (Bretby)

My conversation last night with Townsend[360] was singularly confidential considering our different political views but I believe him

[359]After the meeting, Carnarvon sent a note to Salisbury: 'I trust before going [to Bretby] how earnestly I hope nothing will separate our political relations. Our personal friendship cannot, I believe, be shaken by matters as those with which we are now dealing [. . .]. I dread the political separation and even the consequences of it' (Carnarvon to Salisbury, 8 February 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E).

[360]Meredith White Townsend (1831–1911), editor of the *Spectator* (1860–1898).

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to have a real personal regard for me. He is anxious that I should take Office but either such Office as I held before or an absolute sinecure, nothing whatever like the Post Office, his argument being that this would look like an act of surrender. He thinks either the Colonial or India Office offer the best alternatives.

*The Times* article today hopes that Salisbury and I shall "condone the past and return," all which makes my return easier.[361]

Before leaving town I wrote to Salisbury earnestly hoping that we should not separate our fortunes and resting it on the ground of personal friendship and affection.[362]

Monday 16 February (Bretby)

Everyone seems half-crazed by the prospects and the uncertainties of a new Government, and everyone seems very hungry for places. The only two people who are doubtful and anxious as to accepting Office are Salisbury and myself and probably for this reason it will come to both of us.[363]

Tuesday 17 February (Bretby)

There is no doubt from *The Times* that Gladstone has resigned, but beyond this we know nothing. It is an interesting time but I own my own mind is doubtful and my heart rather heavy about Office.

[361] *The Times*, 9 February 1874, p. 9. In congratulating Carnarvon on his appointment as Colonial Secretary, Townsend stated, 'the success of the whole arrangement is the more important because to my savage annoyance your people are probably in for a generation' (Townsend to Carnarvon, 26 February 1874: CP, BL 60776, fos 3–4).

[362] Carnarvon reiterated his opinion from Bretby: 'I still incline on the whole (and it is a question to be decided on the balance of considerations) to my general view of yesterday' (Carnarvon to Salisbury, 9 February 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E).

[363] Heathcote had written to Carnarvon two days earlier, 'Salisbury, after a full discourse, gave way and I think the reason is that he is satisfied that it is right though his inclinations are still the other way' (Heathcote to Carnarvon, 14 February 1874: CP, BL 61073, fo. 21). Carnarvon had come to a similar decision, admitting, 'I am, as I think of the matter, often in many minds but I conclude on the whole [. . .] it is probably right to accept office' (Carnarvon to Salisbury, 16 February 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E). He proposed to stay at Bretby until he heard from Disraeli.

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Thursday 19 February (London)

A very busy day.[364] Breakfasted with Salisbury and discussed everything. He had virtually given in his adhesion yesterday but on the understanding that he was in complete concert with me. He had written to me to that effect but the letter had missed me. He detailed all that had passed between Disraeli and himself and the conversation seems to have been almost the counterpart of that which I subsequently had with him. So I went to D.'s Whitehall Gardens and found him in. He was very friendly and civil and he explained himself on all points with entire frankness. He began by describing the composition of the Cabinet which he said he was desirous of reducing to much smaller numbers.[365] The Duke of Richmond to be supported by three Secretaries of State, Derby, Salisbury, and myself and the Chancellor, the Army and Navy to be in the Commons because they involved such long and detailed financial statements.[366] He dwelt on the necessity of getting rid of some who had belonged to the old Cabinet and the possibilities of some heartburnings etc. As to legislation I spoke of the possibility of some aggressive measure against the Ritualists being urged, and tho' I had no sympathy with them I should object to that and trusted that he would not sanction it. He entirely assented: and added that some private bills, such as Sandon's, on such subjects must be treated as "open questions". He desired all Church appointments to be shared by the several parties within the Church, those parties always being within certain limits.

Friday 20 February (London)

Long talk with William Peel as to private secretary. Afterwards a conversation with Duke of Richmond. He is very much distressed at not being War Minister which he says belongs to him almost by hereditary right: but he also behaved very much like a gentleman

[364]Disraeli had telegraphed Carnarvon the previous day to call on him in London 'on urgent business as soon as you can' (Disraeli to Carnarvon, 18 February 1874: CP, BL 60763, fo. 19).

[365]At Windsor, the Queen had stated her wish that the Cabinet should consist of twelve members, six from each House (Queen Victoria, Journal, 18 February 1874: Royal Archives, Z/380).

[366]Northcote as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hardy at the War Office, and George Ward Hunt at the Admiralty. 'It will be equally pleasant and curious', Carnarvon observed, 'if our old Ch.Ch. [Christ Church, Oxford] generation find themselves all members of the same Government' (Carnarvon to Sandon, 19 February 1874: Harrowby Papers, 2nd series, lii, fo. 106).

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acknowledging that there was good reason for having the War and Navy Offices represented in the Commons and saying that he was ready to take any or no office. But he added that the Presidency of the Council had always been his abomination and the place which he particularly desired to avoid. The Duke of Marlborough is very sore at being omitted. A very long conversation with Kimberley at the Colonial Office. He went through the affairs of each Colony for 2½ hours and gave me the fullest explanations.

Saturday 21 February (London)

Went down to Windsor to kiss hands and receive the seals of the Colonial Office. We were cheered at Paddington and Windsor by a tolerably large crowd, favoured by the weather, safely whirled along in a saloon carriage by special, and went through the usual ceremony. It had, as on a former occasion, no special features. The Queen was in a very small room only just large enough to hold us and we knelt down (I thought that Hunt[367] would never succeed in recovering his legs when once he was down) and took various oaths, and kissed H.M.'s hand and turned and finally retired. The scene was like, and yet in many respects unlike, that which I remember seven years ago when Lord Derby was Prime Minister. Now it is Disraeli I hope all may go straight and well: but I have an uncomfortable feeling which is quite unreasonable but which I cannot shake off, a feeling of some coming trouble. In some ways this is perhaps well. It will at least restrain all undue satisfaction.

Sunday 22 February (London)

In spite of Sunday a busy day.

Hunt mentions an intention on part of some mad Captain to plant English flag on the Fijis, a troublesome question enough without this addition!

Conversation with Lady Derby. She assures me that Disraeli is entirely altered, cautious, disinclined to any innovation and disposed to go on quite quietly. "There is no chance of any mine" [*sic*]. Nor is there "any sign or risk of personal arrogance", still less "of any feeling of personal grudge". He has only put into his cabinet the best men whom he could find.

[367]George Ward Hunt (1825–1877), Con. MP for Northamptonshire North (1857–1877), Chancellor of the Exchequer (1868), First Lord of the Admiralty (1874–1877).

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Tuesday 24 February (London)

I had a rather curious and not very satisfactory letter from Disraeli as to my new Under Secretary.[368] I showed it to Salisbury but he attached no real importance and showed me another of a similar kind to himself. This manner of writing is inherent, he says, in the man and though singular must not be taken for more than it is really worth.

Wednesday 25 February (London)

In the afternoon serious telegram from Sir G. Wolseley[369] announcing great battle. Heavy losses and apparent check of the whole force 15 miles from Cormassie. It seems very difficult to do anything in the way of reinforcements.

Cabinet

We discussed:

1. The telegram that had arrived.
2. Income tax. Northcote made a long statement to us pointing out that total abolition would involve a general revision of taxing system and balancing evils and advantages. The general feeling of the Cabinet was for ultimate abolition, Hunt and myself perhaps making the only two protests against it, but this abolition was more the result of our political situation in the House of Commons than anything else: nothing decided.
3. India. Salisbury does not anticipate as great distress as supposed, but proposes to ask for powers to take loan of £10,000,000 on Indian security.
4. Foreign policy. Derby says there is loose gunpowder about everywhere and Bismarck is very arrogant but hopes for the best.

Wednesday 4 March (London)

Cabinet

We talked for a short time as to:

[368]James Lowther (1840–1904), Under-Secretary for the Colonies (1874–1878). See Disraeli to Carnarvon, 24 February 1874: CP, BL 60763, fo. 20.

[369]Maj.-Gen. Sir Garnet Wolseley (1833–1913) was in charge of British troops on the Gold Coast during the Second Ashanti War. The capital, Kumasi, was captured on 5 February 1874 and King Koffee agreed to appoint commissioners to conclude a treaty. See Sir G. Arthur (ed.), *The Letters of Lord and Lady Wolseley, 1870–1911* (London, 1922), p. 18.

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1. Ashanti War. Some question as to what should be said in Queen's Speech. I said it would be better to accept fact without going into history or reasons for it, which on the whole was generally adopted.[370]

2. Cairns announced bills on Register of Tithes and Judicature bill, including entire transfer of appellate jurisdiction from House of Lords. I opposed it, or rather said what I could against it, but when last year's bill passed knew the matter was sealed, and so it is. The only members of the cabinet who agreed at all with me were curiously enough members of the House of Commons.

3. Education – decided to say nothing about it in Queen's Speech.

4. Cross proposed his measures (he had talked them over with me before). Corn Law Amendment, Master and Servant Act and Conspiracy Law: agreed to issue a Commission on subject. Then discussion as to Licensing Act. All agreed some relaxation should be given (a) as regards London: question whether hour of closing should be 12.30 or 1. Anyhow the present power of exempting particular houses for the sake of theatres should be taken away as unfair (b) question whether there should be a distinction between large provincial towns and rural districts; the former ought not to close before 12, the latter might close at 11, but uniformity is very desirable.[371]

Wednesday 11 March (London)

A Levée which was wearisome.

A long talk with Magee[372] as to this new church bill of the Bishops and Archbishops.[373] His account of the matter is this. There are some things which are indifferent, some which are pronounced illegal. The first should be left to the discretion of the minister, as now. The second should be in the power of the Bishop and his Council to determine 1st, by restraining them, 2nd, by refusing to restrain, i.e. by sanctioning, that is by exercising a coercive and a dispensing power. He admitted there would be a difficulty in defining the illegal, but then

[370]For Carnarvon's policy on Gold Coast affairs, see J.D. Hargreaves, *Prelude to the Partition of West Africa* (London, 1963), pp. 170–174.

[371]In their election manifesto, the Conservatives had indicated more freedom for licensed victuallers on the sale of strong drink. Cross, the Home Secretary, who was in charge of the bill, disappointed their expectations.

[372]William Connor Magee (1821–1891), Bishop of Peterborough (1868–1891), Archbishop of York (1891).

[373]The Public Worship Regulation Bill 'on the present state of the laws regulating Divine Service in the Church'.

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all legal tribunals would remain and all sources of appeal and redress continue to be available.[374]

I spoke to Hardy on the subject. Saw at the Colonial Office Dr Featherstone and Sir W. Grey[375] who goes to Jamaica on Tuesday.

Thursday 12 March (London)

Cabinet

We considered Queen's Speech.[376] The only question whether we should allude to a bill for regulation of relations of landlords and tenants. It was finally decided in the negative. Nothing else of importance.

Entry of Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh in a snowstorm which afterwards became a sea of mud; but all passed off well and the Queen was said to be unusually smiling and pleased.[377]

Saturday 21 March (London)

Cabinet to discuss Budget.

Agreed:

1. to adjourn local taxation as a whole to next year, but to double contribution to Police expenses = £600,000.
2. reduce Income tax by 1d = £1,540,000 this year, leaving about £200,000 for next.
3. make some further exemptions in small incomes, probably exempt completely under £150, and deduct £150 from incomes under £500.
4. repeal sugar duty = £2,000,000. It was a great question whether it should not be ½ tea duty instead.
5. probably repeal Brewers' licenses, about £450,000.
6. probably take off Passengers' tax, £500,000.
7. repeal horse duty = £480,000.

[374]For an account of the meeting, see Magee's letter to Carnarvon in J.C. MacDonnell, *The Life and Correspondence of William Connor Magee*, 2 vols (London, 1896), I, p. 2.

[375]Sir William Grey (1818–1878), Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (1866–1871), Governor of Jamaica (1874–1877).

[376]*Hansard*, CCXVIII, 19 March 1874, cols 22–25.

[377]Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, had married Princess Marie Alexandrovna, daughter of Czar Alexander II, in St Petersburg on 23 January. They had arrived back at Gravesend the previous day (*The Times*, 12 March 1874, p. 8).

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5 and 6 to be considered, and meanwhile a sub-committee appointed to consider a railway bill. Salisbury, Northcote, Cross. Northcote estimates surplus at £5,400,000.

Saturday 28 March (London – Highclere)

Detained in the Cabinet and came down by last train. Cabinet had discussed

1. Budget. Last Cabinet we had almost come to conclusion to appropriate the surplus as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2d. off tea duty (= ⅓ tax) about | 1,100,000 |
| Locomotion – horse duty and railway | 1,000,000 |
| Police | 600,000 |
| Brewery licences | 400,000 |
| 1d. off income tax about | 1,500,000 |
| | 4,600,000 |

But Northcote said the surplus was going too fast as to be embarrassing; accordingly the question of the abolition of the sugar duties was reviewed, and finally we agreed though Hunt, J. Manners, Salisbury and I were *on the whole* disagreeing and Hardy only barely convinced. But I then urged that something more should be done for local taxation and after some debate it was agreed that Northcote should consider whether Lunatic Asylums could not be given. Disraeli offered this and I and others said it was a very reasonable proposal.

2. Some questions as to Sir G. Wolseley and Captain Glover.[378]

Disraeli announced all that had passed as to the Archbishops threatened Ecclesiastical Legislation. With the exception of Derby the entire Cabinet was opposed. Cairns expressed himself decidedly against. The matter was left with us to meditate on it.

Monday 30 March (London)

Came up, met Sir M. Beach in train. Vote of thanks to Army and Navy in both Houses. I never heard anything poorer

[378]Capt. John Hawley Glover RN (1829–1885), who had served in Lagos, achieved widespread popularity in Britain for his part in the second Ashanti War. He raised a force to assist the commander, Wolseley, much to the latter's annoyance. Carnarvon praised him for his actions and invited him to Highclere. See Lady E.R. Glover, *Life of Sir John Hawley Glover* (London, 1897), pp. 220–221.

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than the speeches in the House of Lords. It was a farrago of such abominable and slipshod commonplace that I felt absolutely ashamed.

I gave a short explanation of the state of things on the Gold Coast but Lord Grey introduced the subject in such a manner as obliged me to be very brief.[379]

Thursday 9 April (Highclere)

All these unsatisfactory rumours as to Lady C. and Disraeli and his visit to Bretby have, as I have long been expecting, come into print.[380] There is a contradiction in the *Morning Post* but put in by whom I cannot say. The expression "ridiculous" clearly indicates that it does not proceed from him.

Saturday 11 April (Highclere)

A very serious harvest of Colonial difficulties and anxieties approach.

1. Fiji annexation
2. Very serious difficulties on the Natal frontier
3. Zulu trials and suppression of the insurrection
4. New Guinea annexation looming in distance
5. Gold Coast settlement.[381]

Wednesday 15 April (London)

Cabinet

1. *Settled the Budget.*[382] Hunt announced that he may have to come for a supplementary vote to make good deficiencies in the Navy. There

[379]Vote of Thanks to Forces in Ashanti War: *Hansard*, CCXVIII, 30 March 1874, Grey, col. 394, Carnarvon, cols 394–398.

[380]Disraeli was at Bretby from 1 to 11 April.

[381]Carnarvon told Disraeli, 'I am afraid that there are one, two or three large Colonial subjects ripening so fast that I shall have to trouble the Cabinet with them at an early date' (Carnarvon to Disraeli, 11 April 1874 (copy): CP, BL 60793, fo. 24).

[382]In his Budget speech in the Commons the following day, Northcote acknowledged Gladstone's economical management of the Ashanti War (see Lang, *Life, Letters and Diaries of Sir Stafford Northcote*, II, pp. 59–62).

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was a rather general protest against expensive reconstruction, but he said that he did not want more than he needed.

2. *Annexation of Fiji*. I explained that the Commissioners had exceeded apparently their powers, but that I believed annexation would be inevitable ultimately though I did not much like it.[383]

3. *The South African difficulty*. Krater award and infringement of it by South African State. I found the Cabinet very timid, and not unnaturally, at the prospect of possible hostilities. I explained as much as I could and promised to circulate papers.

4. *Honours and rewards to Captain Glover and his officers*. Here the Cabinet misled by precedent decided against any money grant to him, an unwise decision which it is quite possible they will be obliged to retract.

Thursday 16 April (Osborne)

Wrote to Disraeli as to Glover.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice[384] are here, a sort of home party, very little ceremony and rather interesting in that way. The Queen was in better spirits, and more animated than I ever saw her, laughing heartily at anything that amused her.

She asked much after my Mother, reminded me that she had first known me when I was quite a child and she was Princess Victoria, and finally went into fits of laughter over the story of Lady Chesterfield's supposed marriage with Disraeli.[385]

She is much interested as to Fiji, but alarmed at the idea of annexation, mainly I think on the ground of the barbarous customs prevailing there, particularly strangulation of widows. The Duke of Edinburgh is very anxious that we should get the islands.

[383]Two Commissioners, Commodore J.G. Goodenough RN and F.L. Layard, HM Consul in Fiji, had been appointed to report on 'various questions connected with the Fiji Islands'. A telegram received from them recommended that Fiji should become a colony. Carnarvon informed the Lords on 20 April 'that it was not very acceptable for the Commissioners to take such a step on their own responsibility' (*Hansard*, CCXVII, cols 909–911).

[384]Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany (1853–1884), youngest son of Queen Victoria; Princess Beatrice (1857–1944), youngest daughter of Queen Victoria, married to Prince Henry of Battenburg (1885).

[385]See account of meeting in Carnarvon's letter to his mother, Henrietta, 3rd Countess of Carnarvon, 17 April 1874: CP, BL 61043, fo. 146.

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Monday 20 April (London)

I am anxious as to this South African difficulty between the Transvaal Republic and the Batlapin tribes. It looks very awkward and may easily grow into a very serious difficulty.

Saturday 25 April (Highclere)

A long and busy day and a Cabinet.

We discussed railway reforms, coming finally to no conclusion, and Scotch Patronage. Salisbury and Hardy and Duke of Richmond were in favour of abolishing it, giving compensation to Patrons and right of election to Assembly. I threw out some doubt as to how far English Church patronage would be involved in such a decision, but the general feeling was in favour of the measure. The Duke of Buccleuch was to be consulted.

We talked a little about the Archbishops' bill. Salisbury urged it to be an open question. Disraeli wisely pressed on us if possible to come to an understanding among ourselves and finally we agreed to press the Archbishop to defer the Second Reading of the bill till at least it had been discussed in Convocation.[386]

Wednesday 29 April (London)

Cabinet

Discussion of miscellaneous and not very important questions, except Hunt's recent alarmist speech on the Navy, evidently a silly affair for after making a great fuss about the deplorable condition of affairs, he is content to take only £150,000. The Cabinet agreed to give him this.

Thursday 30 April (London)

Interview and conversation with Froude[387] as to his journey to Australia.[388] It may I think have some useful results. When I mentioned

[386]The week before, the bishops, meeting at Lambeth, had submitted a new Public Worship Regulation Bill. It was introduced in the Lords on 20 April and, because of Cabinet divisions, was subsequently sent to a Cabinet committee (Buckle, *Disraeli*, V, pp. 321–322).

[387]James Anthony Froude (1818–1894), historian, editor of *Fraser's Magazine* (1860–1874), literary executor for Thomas Carlyle.

[388]In the event, it was another decade before Froude visited Australia.

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to him some of the difficulties as to a satisfactory joint action in naval matters by the colonies and ourselves, he said it was a curious reproduction of some of the difficulties in Irish and English history.

Saturday 2 May (London)

Academy dinner, not as dull as sometimes as Hardy, Northcote and I were sitting together. The speaking was very poor with the exception of Disraeli's speech, which was a curious and highly wrought specimen of fine art – mosaic in its structure and pervaded by a dry humour and cultivation of thought, altogether a remarkable effort.[389]

Sunday 3 May (London)

A long walk round Kensington Gardens with Froude, discussing first his proposed journey to Australia, afterwards general matters.

Derby previously had spoken to me on this journey to the effect that he found the expense might be too great for him, £800 for the journey plus £1000 lost to him by cessation of literary work.

I held out to him some hope that I might be able to manage some help in the way of a grant if he undertook the mission as a public matter. He was, as I have always found him, very delicate in regard to personal interests.

Thursday 7 May (London)

Lord Blachford's bill passed second reading.[390]

Saw Grant and settled I think as to Porchy[391] and his Latin labours with Mr. Middleton.

Granville whom I met in the evening was talking of Palmerston's way of doing business at the Foreign Office. He used, he said, to devote himself to one or two particular subjects for which he cared and to allow the rest to take care of itself.

[389]See *The Times*, 4 May 1874, p. 8.

[390]Colonial Clergy Bill, second reading: *Hansard*, CCXVIII, 7 May 1874, Blachford, cols 1804–1805, Carnarvon, cols 1805–1806.

[391]George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert (1866–1923), Viscount Porchester, Carnarvon's only son by his first marriage; later 5th Earl of Carnarvon (1890).

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Saturday 9 May (London)

Cabinet

The first part was taken up in discussing the Archbishops bill. The subcommittee reported, and Cairns read the objections (and proposals) with regard to it. Then ensued a curious scene for Salisbury had to interrupt him at every passage and to say that it was not a correct representation of the Committee's opinions. In fact Cairns had so manipulated each proposition as to give it a different sense. I have only once before seen Cairns so upset and annoyed and that on a similar occasion when he misrepresented me in the House of Lords. The Cabinet was against him and Disraeli was quite fair and straightforward: and the conclusion was to leave us all free to speak as we pleased but I think with a general agreement to assent to nothing which would not be *a really fair compromise*. The subcommittee were Salisbury, Richmond, Cairns, Hardy and Cross.

Sunday 10 May (London)

Disraeli dined with us. I never knew him more agreeable or full of conversation and anecdote. The languor and lassitude so common to him was gone and he looked ten or twelve years younger. He gave a very curious account of his first acquaintance with Bismarck in England at a ball at the Russian Embassy, just at the time when B. had been summoned to Prussia to form a Government.[392] Bismarck sought him out and said he wished to know him and then went on to say that he was going to Prussia to form the Government and that after weighing this and that policy he went there with the intention of "making Prussia a Kingdom", a curious anticipation, curiously realised.

Monday 11 May (London)

The Archbishop's bill, a very late sitting. Shaftesbury's speech very good and vigorous, considering him to be in his 73rd year; The

[392]In May 1862, Bismarck was appointed ambassador at Paris. He came to England to see the Crystal Palace and also to meet Gladstone and Palmerston. According to Disraeli, Bismarck told him, 'I shall declare war on Austria, dissolve the German Confederation and subjugate the middle and smaller states and give Germany national unity under the control of Prussia'. On 23 September he was in Berlin and, at the age of forty-seven, was appointed Prime Minister of Prussia. See W. Richter, *Bismarck* (London, 1964), pp. 75–76.

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Bishop of Peterborough brilliant, personal, extremely clever, very unepiscopal and ungenerous to a man like Shaftesbury. Salisbury rather embarrassed at first from I think his speaking for the Government, afterwards very able and weighty, the Archbishop of Canterbury able and oratorical but bitter and showing much mental irritation.[393]

Saturday 16 May (London – Hampstead Marshall)

Cabinet

Nothing very important till we came to the Archbishops bill. Agreed that Cairns' proposal for one lay judge to be appointed should be offered to Shaftesbury to propose to take the place of the proposed machinery; also that Salisbury's article of comprehension should be offered to the Bishop of Peterborough to propose. The only difference on this head is that Cairns wishes to limit the toleration to the Eastward position of the Celebrant during the Consecration prayer, we desire to tolerate it during the whole service. Disraeli and indeed I think all the Cabinet leant to this view. On the whole things look well, but the insertion of the Athanasian creed will cause a great deal of opposition among the High Church.

I understand it to be agreed that we should act freely as individuals but also give our support as individual members of the Government to these proposals.

I told the Cabinet my Gold Coast supplementary vote would probably be about £30,000.

Wednesday 20 May (London)

Dined with the Derbys at the Foreign Office. It was a fine sight. The Emperor of Russia was there, Schouvaloff,[394] Adlerberg[395] and some others. I had not much talk with any of them, except Soltikoff, an admiral, who sat by me. I tried to bring him on to French and

[393]Public Worship Regulation Bill, second reading: *Hansard*, CCXIX, 11 May 1874, cols 2–65.

[394]Count Petr Andreievich Shuvalov (1827–1889), Head of Secret Police (1866); he arranged the marriage between Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and Alexander II's daughter, Marie.

[395]Count Aleksandr Adlerberg (1819–1889), Second Secretary to Shuvalov.

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German affairs but he had had, so Lord A. Loftus[396] said, his *mot d'ordre* and would not speak.

Tuesday 2 June (London)

Cabinet

First part of time spent in discussing course of action to be taken on a resolution as to Mr. O'Keefe.[397] It was a difficulty whichever way it was decided.

Agreed to adjourn on the Endowed Schools Commissioners bill.

Interview with Mr. Daldy, Secretary to Copyright Association, as to Copyright bill.

Long interview with Gregory[398] as to Ceylon matters.

House of Lords sat late over Scotch Patronage bill.[399] I dined with Derby [. . .] and he then took the opportunity of saying what Lady Derby has now twice said to Evelyn, that he foresaw that before long it was likely that I should have to take his place at the Foreign Office. I made no answer and I certainly do not desire it for I could see many difficulties and objections.

Saturday 6 June (London)

Cabinet

Long discussion on Endowed Schools bill. Afterwards the question was raised as to the proposed appropriation by the War Office of the new buildings intended for the Colonial Office and Home Office. Hardy made a poor case for the War Office, only saying that the present quarters were too small and were "pestilential" and that the new buildings were more than the Colonial Office required.

I replied urging: 1. utterly bad state of the War Office buildings into which it is proposed that we should go. 2. the original intention

[396]Augustus William Spencer Loftus (1817–1904), Secretary of Berlin Legation, attended Czar Alexander II on his visit to London (1874), Governor of New South Wales (1879–1885).

[397]John O'Keefe (1827–1877), Lib. MP for Dungarvan (1874–1877), supporter of home rule.

[398]Sir William Henry Gregory (1817–1892), Con. MP for Dublin (1842–1847), Lib.-Con. MP for Co. Galway (1857–1871), Governor of Ceylon (1871–1876).

[399]Church Patronage (Scotland) Bill, second reading: *Hansard*, CCXIX, 2 June 1874, cols 809–846.

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of Parliament and the Acts by which the place is allocated to the Colonial Office and the impossibility of reviewing this. 3. the original planning and grouping of the Colonial Office with all its subordinate departments in the new buildings. 4. the new offices of the Colonial Agents placed near. 5. the connection of the Foreign Office and Colonial Office and necessity of having them together.[400]

I absolutely protested and refused my consent, and with so much vigour that no one really offered me any opposition. It was accordingly agreed that the new buildings should remain as always intended for the Colonial Office and Home Office and that a Committee should be appointed to consider what can be done for the War Office. Cross supported me but very feebly; perhaps he was quite satisfied when he saw that I had it my own way. Hardy was a little bit annoyed but this was natural.[401]

The singular part of the matter was that I am convinced from what then passed as well as from what I have heard elsewhere that the whole affair had been planned and plotted, between the Duke of Cambridge and H. Lennox, that Disraeli had been got over and the Duke of Richmond, and possibly someone else. My extremely decided tone probably stopped the intrigue going on. Derby was absent. It is altogether a curious story.

Wednesday [*sic*] 16 June[402] (London)

Replied to Kimberley as to the Zulu insurrection.

Serious news from Canada. An envoy is on his way from British Columbia to appeal against Railway policy of Dominion Parliament.[403]

[400]The old Colonial Office building in Downing Street had been condemned in 1837. A new block in King Street, designed by Sir Gilbert G. Scott to accommodate the Foreign Office, the India Office, and the Colonial Office, was sanctioned in 1868. The Colonial Office transferred to its new site in 1876. See B.L. Blakeley, *The Colonial Office, 1868–1892* (Durham, NC, 1972), pp. 18–19; E. Walford (ed.), *Old and New London: a narrative of the history, the people and its places*, vol. 3 (London, 1876), pp. 392–393.

[401]Hardy at the War Office attempted to lay claim to the Colonial Office building. Before the Cabinet meeting, Carnarvon offered to discuss the matter with Disraeli, having already talked to Hardy (Carnarvon to Disraeli, 6 June 1874: Hughenden Papers, 100/1, fo. 46). Hardy recorded, 'Carnarvon was very hot on the subject' (Johnson, p. 209). Carnarvon moved into the new building in January 1876.

[402]This entry should be for Tuesday 16 June.

[403]A condition of British Columbia joining the Confederation in 1871 was a subsidy towards construction of a Pacific Railway within ten years. Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General, wanted Macdonald's resignation, but it was not until November 1873, after a vote of severe censure was passed in Parliament, that he resigned. Alexander Mackenzie was appointed

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A very temperate protest also came to hand from Sproat, Agent to British Columbia.[404] After consideration I went over to Disraeli and explained the case. He heard it all and seemed to understand it perfectly, I then read him a telegram which I proposed to send at once to Canada, volunteering arbitration on the request of both parties and on the understanding that the arbitration should be conclusive.

He entirely agreed to it and to all that I said and saw no other prudent course open. I proposed to telegraph at once to which he assented, and I suggested whether I should bring it on in Cabinet, to which he said he thought there was no need for this; that he concurred with me and would take the full share of responsibility with me. I accordingly telegraphed.

Thursday 18 June (London)

Cabinet

Main discussion on course to be taken as to Archbishop's bill and his application for "renewal of letters of business to Convocation granted by late Government to consider rubrics." No one knew much of letters of business except myself, but the Cabinet decided to renew the grant. Cairns to announce tomorrow.

Derby announced Congress of Brussels. Agreed to send an envoy there on distinct understanding that rules of maritime warfare are not discussed. This was a point evidently overlooked by the Foreign Office.[405]

A very heavy day. Saw at the office Bishop of Capetown,[406] Bishop of Melbourne,[407] Revd. O. Crosse,[408] Dr. Hamilton[409] as to the 33 and the Prince of Wales.

as the new prime minister by Dufferin. See A. Lyall, *The Life of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava*, 2 vols (London, 1905), I, pp. 224–227; W.L. Morton, *The Critical Years*, pp. 275–277.

[404]Gilbert Malcolm Sproat (1834–1913), agent to British Columbia (1872–1876).

[405]The conference, attended by all European countries, was intended to create firm guidelines based on an international code 'to improve the laws and usages of warfare'.

[406]Revd W.W. Jones, Bishop of Capetown.

[407]Revd Charles Perry, Bishop of Melbourne.

[408]Revd Oland Crosse, Vicar of St John the Baptist Church, Pawlett, Somerset since 1827.

[409]Dr John Hamilton (1809–1875), surgeon to Queen Victoria (1874).

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Friday 19 June (London)

Answer from Canada declining arbitration from Mackenzie,[410] the Prime Minister, an ignorant and shortsighted fellow, in the absence of Dufferin[411] who would doubtless have dealt with the matter differently.

Saw Horsman at Colonial Office on Straits Settlements as to India Emigration and afterwards as to Scotch Patronage bill on which I made an unwise step, which I am afraid was owing as much to temper and personal feeling as to want of judgement. I hope that no harm will come of it.

I mentioned what had happened on this subject to Derby, Salisbury, Hardy and very generally to Northcote.

Saturday 20 June (London)

Some conversation with Northcote and Salisbury as to Endowed Schools bill.[412] Settled that the existing Commission should be continued Roby[413] only being removed. He is to be provided for in this way. Malcolm[414] is to be removed to the Colonial Office as Assistant Under Secretary and his place to be filled by Roby.

Afterwards a good deal of conversation with Salisbury 1. as to his own health. 2. as to the future of the Government in the event of Disraeli failing. His view is that we should insist on Hardy leading in the House of Commons and on a certain mode of dealing with Church

[410]Alexander Mackenzie (1822–1892), first Lib. Prime Minister of Canada (1873–1878).

[411]Frederick Temple Blackwood (1826–1902), Earl of Dufferin (1871), 1st Marquess of Dufferin and Ava (1888), Under-Secretary of State for India (1864–1866) and for War (1866), Chancellor, Duchy of Lancaster (1868–1872), Governor-General of Canada (1872–1878), ambassador at St Petersburg (1879–1881) and Constantinople (1881–1884), Viceroy of India (1884–1888). Dufferin, who was on a ten-day fishing holiday when Carnarvon's telegram was sent, displayed a more favourable attitude towards Mackenzie. He informed Carnarvon, 'the poor man never dreamt of adopting a disrespectful tone [. . .] and Mackenzie is not a statesman. When he first took office he was so anxious to disparage Macdonald and his predecessors that he could not refrain from denouncing in wild and ill considered terms [. . .] their general Railway policy' (Dufferin to Carnarvon, 9 July 1874: Dufferin Papers, D 1071/41/2, fo. 222).

[412]The Endowed Schools (Amendment) Bill introduced into the Commons on 14 July 1871 was aimed at abolishing the Endowed Schools Commission, a body set up by the previous Liberal government. The Commissioners were charged with altering the trusts of and settling schemes for endowed schools. See P. Gordon, *Selection for Secondary Education* (London, 1980), pp. 39–42.

[413]Henry John Roby (1830–1915), formerly Secretary of the Endowed Schools Commission (1869–1974) and Commissioner (1872–1874). Lib. MP for Eccles (1890–1895).

[414]William Rolle Malcolm (1840–1923), Assistant Under-Secretary at the Colonial Office (1874–1878).

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questions. 3. He said he knew of no one to be Foreign Secretary in the event of Derby being Prime Minister but myself. This corresponds with what I know to be Derby's view, but I fought against it I doubt it suiting me, and I see very great objections to it.

Wednesday 24 June (London)

My birthday, and in keeping with this strange year we have had on Midsummer day heavy storms of rain at intervals and even hail. How time flies; how little one can foresee; how little one does of the work which should be done. I sometimes doubt whether as the years roll on, the horizon is contracting or widening.

Cabinet. We discussed Endowed Schools bill and we came to a fresh conclusion again. We decided to keep the old Commission providing for the retirement of Roby by giving him Malcolm's place at the Board of Trade and Malcolm coming to the Colonial Office, and adopting the other general provisions of the bill. Discussed Archbishop's bill and agreed that Cairns should make a critical (and I specially added and *colourless*) statement of its present condition. The Duke of Richmond very anxious to get it entirely into Cairns' hands, but I think I shall say something myself during the discussion.[415] The Duke of Richmond and Sandon certainly do not agree very well.

A long conversation with Froude at the Colonial Office, relative to his secret mission. I explained what I wished him to give his attention to in South Africa, specifying three subjects in particular:

1. generally Federation
2. relations of Free States and Nations and ourselves
3. Natal in reference to recent insurrection. Agreed on this head that if necessary I should write to him and appoint him a Commissioner to enquire on the spot.[416]

Agreed that he should have £1000 from Secret Service money, to which Derby and Disraeli have both agreed.[417] He expressed himself

[415]The third reading of the Public Worship Regulation Bill took place the following day, when Carnarvon spoke in support of it: *Hansard*, CCXX, 25 June 1874, cols 400–402.

[416]By the following day, Froude had several reservations about undertaking the task. He wrote to Carnarvon, 'I don't like the notion of mixing myself up in this Cape Commission unless in a distinct capacity [. . .]. I shall say frankly that I was collecting information which I should probably communicate to you and no suspicion would attach to me. At the Cape especially, even with nothing in writing about me to Sir H. Barkly, I shall feel like a Spy. I have paid no attention to internal Cape politics, and no one will be able to guess what induced me to meddle with them' (Froude to Carnarvon, 25 June 1874: CP, BL 60798, fos 12–13).

[417]Derby to Carnarvon, 22 June 1874: CP, BL 60765, fo. 69.

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as fully and entirely satisfied in this respect. Settled that he should proceed very soon and go first to the Cape and then if he had time go on to Australia, but that Cape was first and urgent consideration.[418]

Wednesday 8 July (London)

Cabinet, entirely occupied with question as to Fiji.[419]

Finally settled to decline the conditional cession, but not to refuse an absolutely unconditional one: to telegraph this to Sir H. Robinson[420] and to send him out as a supreme Commissioner for the purpose of taking the opinions of King, chiefs, natives and whites in Fiji.

Saturday 11 July (Hatfield)

Cabinet at 1

Discussion on course to be pursued with Religious Worship bill. Disraeli described state of feeling in House of Commons as passionate for the bill and that unless the Government either gave facilities or undertook next year to bring in a measure it would be forced by its own supporters. At first I doubted this but Hardy acknowledged its truth and I have had since corroboration. After much discussion it was settled to give Wednesday or Thursday for conclusion of Second reading and to offer facilities for going into Committee on Friday. Hardy and Northcote were in favour of staving off legislation this year and promising a bill next; Salisbury strongly against, and so the matter was decided. I came away feeling uncomfortable about the whole matter and seeing that any course that is taken is bad. It is a choice of evils.[421]

[418]Froude, in writing to Carnarvon on the latter's appointment, had contemplated a visit to Australia and New Zealand to see 'whether there is any possibility of drawing them closer to us'. In reply, Carnarvon suggested that, first of all, Froude should visit South Africa 'and give the Government what help he could to understand the condition of affairs there'. See W.H. Dunn, *James Anthony Froude*, 2 vols (Oxford, 1961–1963), II, p. 390.

[419]Carnarvon had asked Montagu Corry, Disraeli's private secretary, if the Cabinet could discuss Fiji, and attempt to settle the question 'as I am to be questioned on the subject in the Lords this week' (Carnarvon to Corry, 6 July 1874: Hughenden Papers, dep. 100/1, fo. 58; see also Vincent, *Derby*, II, p. 174).

[420]Sir Hercules Robinson (1824–1897), Governor of Ceylon (1865–1872) and of New South Wales (1872–1879).

[421]The adjourned debate on the bill took place on 15 July, when it was read a second time: *Hansard*, CCXXI, cols 14–89.

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Friday 17 July (London)

I made my statement about Fiji in the House. It seemed well received and Kimberley made a very fair speech in reply.[422]

The opposition to the Public Worship bill has entirely collapsed and Gladstone has been obliged to withdraw his resolutions. His own party are open mouthed against him and say that he has set up the Government for a fresh term of office. He certainly has not played his cards well, though at the same time the clergy will be generally angry with us for supporting the bill.[423]

Monday 20 July (London)

Cabinet, to discuss Endowed Schools bill.

Northcote proposed a clause to throw open the governing bodies under the old 19th clause of Endowed Schools Act to Dissenters. Salisbury opposed this strongly on the ground that we should destroy the character of the bill. Sandon was called in and he strongly defended the proposal. I argued for Salisbury's view and finally a compromise clause drawn by Cairns was agreed on, which Sandon was to announce. It was a curious but not satisfactory Cabinet.

We carried this clause through though we were a small minority, Salisbury, myself, Hardy and J. Manners. There were signs of concert and combination and pre-arrangement, and Disraeli showed all that curious desire of going with the House of Commons, and of manipulating them which has always distinguished him.

Saturday 25 July (Highclere)

A letter from Salisbury announcing a very "unpleasant Cabinet"[424] yesterday. He had been absolutely beaten on all the points in the

[422] On the cession of Fiji to the British Crown: *Hansard*, CCXXI, 17 July 1874, Carnarvon, cols 179–189, Kimberley, cols 192–195.

[423] Gladstone fiercely opposed the principle of the bill on the grounds of its spiritual absolutism. See Gladstone to Granville, 7 May 1874, in Ramm, 1952, II, pp. 451–453. He countered with six resolutions, but withdrew them on 16 July (see J.P. Parry, *Democracy and Religion: Gladstone and the Liberal Party* (Cambridge, 1986), pp. 414–416).

[424] Salisbury wrote from the India Office, 'I am very glad you were out of it for it would have annoyed you and done your health no good—and your presence would not have retrieved the day. We were too thoroughly overmatched' (Salisbury to Carnarvon, 25 July 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E). Disraeli dropped the controversial clause on retaining the Church character of an endowed school. See Diary, 28 July 1874 for Carnarvon's discussion with Salisbury on the bill.

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Endowed Schools bill which he had tried to carry, even Hardy voting against him. He said he "felt himself in a very disagreeable position though it was too small a matter on which to resign", altogether very unsatisfactory. I telegraphed in general terms and wrote more fully, agreeing entirely that it was not a question on which a resignation was possible. I regret that I was not there for I might have prevented the discussion becoming disagreeable as I plainly see it was.

Later, Lady Chesterfield received a letter from Disraeli. I did not see it, but she said that he had said that the Cabinet was a "most critical one," "that he was sorry that I was absent," but that "he hoped all would be well."[425]

Tuesday 28 July (London)

Had some conversation with Salisbury as to the last Cabinet. It seems that Disraeli in stating the question of the Endowed Schools bill to the Cabinet said that he desired to consult Hardy particularly, whose position was difficult, and Salisbury "in a less degree" or words to that effect. I said that I thought this could only have proceeded from awkwardness, for that he had generally shown him marked consideration and that if he had meant anything offensive it would have been too offensive a speech. Salisbury on the whole agreed, but he is evidently annoyed.

We afterwards got into larger questions and I advised him not to speak on the bill when it comes up. I urged him not to give anyone the pretext for saying either that he had been beaten on a point where he had tried to win or that he was impracticable.

Spoke to Derby about the Fiji labourers and the payment of their wages and back passages. He was mightily discomposed at my statement.

Saturday 1 August (Highclere)

Cabinet

All the first part of the time occupied in the discussion of the Queen's Speech. On the whole a general agreement. I drafted a paragraph on the Gold Coast which was accepted.[426]

[425] 'Carnarvon was much wanted today in the most critical Cabinet of the session. However, all has ended well apparently' (Zetland, I, p. 117).

[426] See Queen's Speech: *Hansard*, CCXXII, 5 February 1875, col. 4.

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Afterwards some debate as to the Endowed Schools bill. Salisbury objected to a clause proposed but got little support. I then interposed and finally after some discussion it was left to Cairns to draft.[427]

Afterwards I stated the difficulty of the labourers in Fiji and proposed to take powers to pay their wages and back passages, putting a mortgage to the same amount on the estates of the planters. A good deal of opposition to this proposal, and it would have been shelved but that I said I could not have it put aside but that I must request that it could be considered fully, that the responsibility was first with me, afterwards, with them.

Finally, the Cabinet was settled to meet again on this subject next week.

Tuesday 4 August (London)

Saw Cairns, to whom I have given the Government of Queensland.[428] He seemed very grateful and looked better in health [. . .].

Debate in the House of Lords as to Commons Amendment on Archbishops bill. I spoke against the amendment giving an appeal to the Archbishops from the Bishops discretion. Bishop of Winchester[429] made a good speech against it. Salisbury also, but he spoke with too much warmth, the result however to my surprise that one had a majority of 12.[430] Richmond and Cairns voted in the minority. After speaking I saw Hardy and had some talk with him on the subject. He is evidently very much out of spirits, spoke rather sadly of the way in which he had been treated by his own friends and of the anger of the Queen at his having said that she was not the head of the Church. Altogether these Church subjects are likely to give us a great deal of trouble and possibly to break us up as a Government.

[427]The Endowed Schools (Amendment) Bill received the Royal Assent on 5 August.

[428]William Wellington Cairns (1828–1888), Governor of Queensland (1874–1875). He was Hugh Cairns's half-brother.

[429]Edward Harold Browne (1811–1891), Bishop of Winchester (1873–1890).

[430]*Hansard*, CCXXI, 4 August 1874, Salisbury, cols 1231–1232, Winchester, cols 1234–1238, Carnarvon, cols 1242–1245, Cairns, cols 1246–1249. Contents 32, Not-Contents 44.

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Wednesday 5 August (London)

A long and very important conversation with Salisbury in prospect of possible changes of Government during the Autumn. It was agreed that we neither of us should accept anything without consultation. We both were of opinion that on the whole Derby would be the best head of the Government, that Richmond was impossible because so hopelessly ignorant and incompetent, that the question of the Foreign Office was an extreme difficulty and that the acceptance of it was equally repugnant to both of us, that individual questions would be dangerous but that everything was too uncertain here to decide on any course. I urged him again very earnestly to prune down the strength of his expressions and to give no occasion to people to call him intemperate. He accepted it all in the kindest and best part.

Oddly enough he had scarcely gone when he sent me a note from Disraeli to him, apologizing for some expressions that he (D.) seems to have used this afternoon in the House of Commons as to Salisbury.[431] I suspect D. had not recovered his temper, and that the decision of the House of Commons was still doubtful. Subsequently they accepted our amendment of last night.

Cabinet on Fiji matters postponed.

Thursday 6 August (London – Highclere)

Certainly nothing can be worse or more offensive than Disraeli's speech on Salisbury. Not one expression but a succession of sentences, each one worse than its predecessor. Salisbury came to me and talked matters over and settled to make an explanation in the House which he did and with complete success. Cairns asked me what Salisbury thought, whether he was much annoyed. I said no, that he was above being annoyed at such a thing but that it was impossible not to feel the extraordinary nature of the proceeding.[432]

[431] See *The Times*, 6 August 1874, p. 6, and The Public Worship Bill, third reading: *Hansard*, CCXXI, 5 August 1874, Disraeli, cols 1354–1360. Salisbury wrote to Carnarvon afterwards, 'To show you how much I have improved in style under your teaching, I enclose my reply to a strange note I received from D. What impertinences he has been saying about me I cannot conceive' (Salisbury to Carnarvon, 5 August 1874: CP, BL 60758, fo. 139). Carnarvon replied, 'You are very good to let me talk to you as I do often say disagreeable things and make idle criticisms' (Carnarvon to Salisbury, 5 August 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E).

[432] There was considerable speculation at the time that the three main Conservative rebels – Salisbury, Carnarvon, and Hardy – would have to resign. See J. Bentley, *Ritualism and Politics in Victorian Britain: the attempt to legislate for belief* (Oxford, 1978), p. 74.

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I discussed everything again with S., and afterwards had a talk with Hardy. When I told him that I knew that Disraeli had sent a message to V. Harcourt assuring him of his readiness to offer him office he was overwhelmed.[433]

I too have had my cause of complaint. This morning I received a letter from M. Corry[434] saying the Cabinet was put off indefinitely and that "D. added that it was impossible to make any advance under present circumstances as regards Fiji!" The impertinence and folly and absurdity of the proceeding at first irritated me greatly. I came down here determined to ignore this intimation and telegraph to Robinson to make the necessary advances.

Saturday 8 August (Highclere)

Froude, Delane, V. Harcourt, Dean of Westminster[435] and some others came.

Harcourt very agreeable socially. He makes no secret of his liking for Disraeli, his wish that he could exchange leaders and his acting in concert with him. He is evidently looking to a coalition and in fact hardly disguises it. He says that Gladstone is evidently bent next session on advocating Home Rule and disestablishment, and that he for one will not follow him there. He told me a curious story of Disraeli. It seems that he was talking to him of Lowe and that D. sneered at Lowe, on which Harcourt said that after all his speeches in the House of Commons had carried the House with him. To which D. replied that he had made Lowe, for that after the first of Lowe's speeches he had seen the importance of it, though his own party "who are not very intelligent" had not been alive to it, and he had accordingly placed members in different parts of the House with instructions to cheer Lowe at the proper passages, and that this had made his reputation. An extraordinary story! How much truth is there in it? Harcourt evidently believed it.

[433]See Diary, 8 August 1874. Harcourt had made a damaging speech on Gladstone in the Commons debate on the Public Worship Regulation Bill the previous day (see A.G. Gardiner, *The Life of Sir William Harcourt*, 2 vols (London, 1923), I, pp. 276–277).

[434]Montagu William Lowry Corry (1838–1903), private secretary to Disraeli (1866–1881), created 1st Baron Rowton (1881).

[435]Arthur Penrhyn Stanley (1815–1881), Dean of Westminster (1864–1881).

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Sunday 9 August (Highclere)

Received an answer from Disraeli, leaving everything to my management and withdrawing all attempts at restricting my discretion, a very civil but a very sphinx-like epistle.[436]

Monday 14 September (Gedling)

Hamilton[437] from the Colonial Office came, a pleasant comprehending youth. Shot with him and Mr. Wright.

In the evening the Chandos Leighs[438] and Sheffield,[439] who looks very ill. Sheffield told me a curious story of Foreign Office blundering. It seems that Derby was on the whole prepared that General Sir A. Horsford[440] should sign the protocol of the Brussels Conference and that he allowed a despatch to this effect to be drafted and signed. It was then submitted to Disraeli who declared himself strongly against such a signature. Meanwhile the despatch had gone back to the Foreign Office and instead of being pigeonholed and cancelled, was by mistake forwarded to Brussels and presented to Sir A. Horsford. Thus we were committed to the signing of the Protocol – the very opposite of what we intended.

Saturday 19 September (Gedling)

Our party broke up and Orlando Forester[441] returned from Bretby where Disraeli is much laid up with bronchitis.

D. has given up going to Ireland, being finally decided, it seems by a letter from Derby dissuading him on the ground of the political risks

[436]i.e., allowing Carnarvon discretion on Fiji affairs. Disraeli to Carnarvon, 8 August 1874: CP, BL 60763, fos 39–42.

[437]Lord George Francis Hamilton (1845–1927), Con. MP for Middlesex (1868–1884) and for Ealing (1885–1906), Under-Secretary of State for India (1874–1878), Vice- President, Committee of Council on Education (1878–1880), First Lord of the Admiralty (1885–1886).

[438]Gilbert Henry Chandos Leigh (1851–1884), Lib. MP for Warwickshire South (1880–1884).

[439]Henry North Holroyd (1832–1909), 3rd Earl of Sheffield (1876), diplomat (1852–1856), Con. MP for Sussex East (1857–1865).

[440]Gen. Sir Alfred Horsford (1818–1885), the British delegate to the Conference, had been given strict orders to refer every point to the Government. After the report was received, no further action was taken to implement it.

[441]Revd and Hon. Orlando Forester (1813–1894), brother of Lady Chesterfield and Lady Bradford. Rector of Gedling, Notts, of which Carnarvon was patron. Disraeli had recently appointed him Canon Resident and Chancellor of York (Blake, *Disraeli*, pp. 685–686).

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or *the necessity of being in good order for the discussion of measures in Cabinet in November*. He (O.F.) replied "Compulsory education". I suspect that but for me he would have said "religious questions" and lastly, to my surprise, he said something about "home rule", adding that M. Corry thought that it was quite possible to handle some of these questions in such a way as to be agreeable to all parties.

I believe that this must be the result of some conversation or other at Bretby and that Disraeli is as usual scheming and that he is more than ever in M. Corry's hands. Meanwhile he is certainly ill and apparently has been very low and depressed as to himself. It is quite possible that he may not get through the winter, and already Derby like the heir expectant is beginning to dictate terms and take powers. It is altogether very disagreeable. I see nothing in the future which is likely to be satisfactory – unbelief in religion, trimming in Parliament, cowardice in national policy.

Saturday 26 September (Bretby)

We came on here in the afternoon.[442] Found Disraeli better but looking very ill, and I think extremely low and depressed about himself. He had been out for a short airing for the first time. His gout is still bad, though I suspect not yet fully developed, and he has remains of a severe bronchitis. He seemed very glad to see me and declared that he had hardly heard anything of any of his colleagues except Derby. He began by telling me what had been done at the Foreign Office, 1st. recognition of Spain. 2nd withdrawal of minister from Papal Court and transfer of the whole business to Paget.[443] 3rd He gave me an account of the extraordinary blunder as to the Brussels Protocol.

He then went on to talk of what we must do on our meeting in November, saying that it was of no use merely to meet to ask each other how we had spent the holidays, that it was necessary to have our views as to legislation etc. ready. I expected something serious and large after this and remembered the hints as to Reform in '57: but he proceeded to say that Cross, in whom he had great confidence, had promised to consider some scheme as to dwellings for working classes, that he had not asked him what his plan was but that he believed that

[442]Carnarvon, who was at Gedling at the time, told his mother, 'I am obliged to go to Bretby today as Disraeli is there and it is a matter of consequence to me to see him on various Government business' (Carnarvon to Henrietta, 3rd Countess of Carnarvon, 26 September 1874: CP, BL 61044, fo. 157).

[443]Sir Richard Horner Paget (1832–1908), Con. MP for Somerset East (1865–1868), for Mid-Somerset (1868–1885), and for Wells (1885–1895).

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he was maturing it. And there he stopped, adding I think somewhat as to sanitary reforms. He went on however to the Judicature Bills, reminding one that he had always disliked the removal of the power from the House of Lords, and saying that there would be no real opposition from Cairns on the subject. I think that he is anxious here for a modification of Cairns' bill of last session.

Something was then said as to the Religious Worship Act, and I said that it would not come into operation till July and that then no-one could say without further experience how it would work. To this he assented, and he gave me the impression that he did not contemplate any movement in this direction. I told him that the clergy was still sore, to which he assented.

He said he had heard once from Salisbury and that nothing could be more friendly.

Tuesday 29 September (Bretby)

Had a good deal of conversation with Disraeli on Colonial subjects. I broached to him my ideas of a fusion of the St. Michael and the St. George in the Order of the Bath. He agreed in it, said it ought to have been done when the St. Michael and St. George was revived, but that it would need much consideration and care and should be dealt with as a whole.

I explained also to him my notions as to a scheme of joint Colonial Defence, military and naval. He entered into it very warmly and added that I should have his heartiest support. He said that he wanted to send "the bearskin" back again to Canada to reassert the visible sovereignty of the Empire.

Wednesday 30 September (Bretby)

I have I think seen more of Disraeli and got a greater appreciation of him than ever before. There is no doubt as to his genius and his breadth of view. He detests details and always looks to the principle or rather the *idea* of any question. He is in fact unable to deal with details. He does no work. For many days past he has not put pen to paper. M. Corry is in fact Prime Minister and on the whole does not manage amiss or above much his power. He is in private life amicable.

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Saturday 17 October (Highclere)

Telegram of annexation of Fiji received.[444] Wrote to Disraeli as to Gold Coast slavery matter, saying I would need a naval force on the Coast.[445]

Very hard day's work.

Wednesday 21 October (Highclere)

A great deal of navy business settled with Herbert[446] as far as possible.

1. Fiji matter, the proposed staff 2. Natal, course of proceedings 3. Canada Cables Act 4. British Columbian despatch: stands over.[447]

Tuesday 27 October (Highclere)

The Salisburys came. He is looking better, but has little news having just returned from France. We talked over matters generally. The only point which he suggested was as to the course to be taken on the Report of the University Revenues. There are two courses assuming that we take action, which we both think desirable:

1. to draw the bill and to provide for their distribution
2. to enable the Universities to redistribute.

I am in favour of the 2nd and so was he, a plan for allowing Convocation to appoint 3 Commissioners, each College, as its turn comes on, 3 Commissioners, and the Crown 3 Commissioners, might give, I think, a safe body.

[444]Robinson sent a telegram on 30 September stating that the King of Fiji had signed an unconditional cession of the country. It was not received until 16 October. See Hardinge, II, p. 134; Carnarvon to Disraeli, 17 October 1874 (copy): CP, BL 60763, fos 52–53.

[445]Carnarvon also wrote to Ward Hunt at the Admiralty requesting naval support: 'I have seen my way towards the abolition of Slavery on the Gold Coast' (Carnarvon to Ward Hunt, 18 October 1874: CP, TNA, PRO 30/6/5, fo. 25).

[446]Robert George Wyndham Herbert (1831–1905), Colonial Secretary for Queensland (1859), first Premier of Queensland (1860–1865), Permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies in London (1871–1892), KCB (1882), Agent-General, Tasmania (1893–1896).

[447]'I have just telegraphed to Carnarvon. He seems very busy annexing provinces to the Empire' (Disraeli to Lady Bradford, 18 October 1874, in Zetland, I, p. 161).

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Saturday 31 October (Highclere)

Colenso[448] came to confer on Natal matters. I found him very reasonable in conversation at least.

*His recommendations*, to sum up everything briefly, are:

1. Amnesty to Langalibalele tribe.[449] They are scattered and in hiding and would at once return.

2. Give them power to take service for 3 years with white settlers. Government to guarantee the contract, and with their wages to buy up land as individual holdings.

3. Patili tribe to go back to location but to give to each man a separate creation. There should be no power to sell to any Englishmen, only natives.

4. He agrees in view which I urged on Shepstone,[450] viz. to substitute white magistrates for Chiefs, but to make the change as gradual and gentle as possible.

5. To release the Chief, but not to imprison him. He has suffered enough, and Maritzburg prison is crowded and unhealthy. It will be enough to put him under surveillance.

6. Question arose under whose care: he again repeated his offer of taking charge of him. I said that if I could release him it must be without creating prestige of local government, to which he assented.

7. He advised a Durbar to be held every year in order to tide over transition period as the Chiefs do not come under Legislature.

8. He promises all co-operation that he can give in smoothing matters and he recognizes my great difficulties in dealing with the matter.

[448]John William Colenso (1814–1883), Bishop of Natal (1853–1863) and of Cape Town (1863–1883).

[449]Langalibalele, a Kaffir chief, had defied a Natal firearms registration order. Pine, the governor, decided to make an example of him, ordering the destruction of the chieftain's land stock. Captured by the Cape Mountain Police, Langalibalele was tried in a special court presided over by Pine himself and sentenced to banishment. This move was approved by Sir Theophilus Shepstone, Secretary for Native Affairs, and the Natal colonists. Colenso came to England in late September, to urge Carnarvon to ensure that justice was done to Langalibalele (see G.W. Cox, *The Life of John William Colenso*, 2 vols (London, 1888), II, pp. 389–392). After their first meeting, Carnarvon confessed, 'I was not prejudiced in his favour but I am bound to say that he did his part fairly well. His arguments were all reasonable and his facts fairly stated' (Diary, 5 October 1874).

[450]Sir Theophilus Shepstone (1817–1893), Secretary of State for Native Affairs, Natal (1856), Administrator of the Transvaal (1877–1879) and of Zululand (1884).

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Thursday 12 November (London)

Cabinet

Disraeli is certainly very poorly. The gout and bronchitis combined have pulled him down greatly and I own to great misgivings.

He began by a strong appeal to Hardy and Hunt in consequence of Northcote's serious financial statement to consider if a reduction between them of some £500,000 were possible; and both declared themselves unable to reduce a shilling. Hunt said that anyhow he had looked to at least 3 years to set things straight in consequence of the wholesale reductions of the late Government.

We then discussed the proposed bill for the Government of the Metropolis. Cross explained it and proposed to indicate some reforms that might be made in the Government as apart from the City, leaving the City alone. Finally agreed to oppose the bill *in toto* and to hold out no hope of dealing with other parts of London. There was a very divided opinion as to the fact whether any change there would be an improvement.

*Public building* Northcote explained there would be in this year £500,000 surplus, next year deficiency of £700,000 and if things were unfavourable, the total deficiency would be about £900,000. We would have to keep income tax as permanent tax and as at present and probably get £1,000,000 on spirits. Under these circumstances *it seemed* to be agreed not to commence purchase of land for War Office and new buildings which would cost £2,000,000 and with the buildings £3,000,000.

*Arctic Expedition* Agreed to give grant for this. This year £40,000, next £36,000, next £22,000, next £13,000.

*Question of Game* Decided to postpone bill.

*Landlord and Tenant* Decided to introduce a bill and Committee appointed, Duke of Richmond, Malmesbury and Hunt.

*Endowed Schools Commission* Agreed to wait to see what new Commissioners do, i.e. to do nothing at present.

Saturday 14 November (London)

Cabinet

We discussed:

1. *Workmen's dwellings* Cross proposes a bill on principles of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Liverpool Acts, also appropriation of land *near* but not quite part of Battersea Park. He is to prepare a bill.

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2. *University Revenues* Disraeli to write to the Vice Chancellors, to ask for their proposals.

3. *Sanitary legislation* Sclater Booth[451] who was called in says there is enough power already given by Act of last year.

4. Bills as to pollution of Rivers and Adulteration of Food to be prepared.

Immediately afterwards I received a telegram from Dufferin asking me to intervene by commuting sentence on Lepine.[452] This is a serious matter. Talked to Northcote as to this, as to probable financial difficulties regarding Griqualand and as to the Endowed Schools scheme remaining.

In the morning I saw the Prince of Wales as to his Grand Mastership and Masonic matters. He told me he had consulted the Queen before accepting and though she was not fond of Masonry she had agreed to it.[453]

Sunday 15 November (London)

There is this great satisfaction in doing business with Disraeli that whilst he never worries or interferes unnecessarily he has the imaginative faculty which enables him to apprehend the true state of the case in its broad outlines from a distance far more truly than the dull matter of fact politicians that one ordinarily deals with.

The Queen had just written to him on the Greville *Memoirs*, very indignant at what she called "the indelicacy the indiscretion and the ingratitude" of them, a very royal alliteration.[454]

I had a long conversation with him and an interesting one. Among other things he discussed the late Lord Derby and said he had neither sympathy nor heart. He spoke of and rated much higher the present Derby.

[451]George Sclater-Booth (1826–1894), Con. MP for Hampshire North (1857–1887), President of the Local Government Board (1874–1880), 1st Baron Basing (1887).

[452]Dufferin to Carnarvon, 12 November 1874: Dufferin Papers, D/1071/H1/3, fo. 80. Ambroise-Dydime Lépine, a Canadian accused of committing a murder in 1873, had been sentenced to death a few weeks earlier. The French Catholics were demanding commutation and caused a government crisis.

[453]The Prince had been promoted Grand Master of the Order in England in 1874, and became Past Master on the resignation of Lord Ripon in September 1875 (S. Lee, *King Edward VII*, 2 vols (London, 1925–1927), II, pp. 291, 568).

[454]Charles Cavendish Fulke Greville (1794–1868), Clerk of the Council in Ordinary, author of *A Journal of the Reigns of King George IV and King William IV*, edited by Henry Reeve and recently published.

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Tuesday 17 November (London)

Cabinet

1. *Irish bills* Dr. Ball gave as his opinion as to course to be taken. He enumerated 3 questions: a) Judicature bill on which he said nothing. b) Jury bill, the introduction of which he considered very important. An English bill has to be prepared and it is a question if the Irish should not follow on a line similar to it. c) Peace Preservation Acts. He says that Ireland is very tranquil, little crime, but they ought apparently to be renewed. Nothing agreed but a report to be prepared.

2. A bill as to explosives discussed.

3. Agreed that in January we should decide on Master and Servant bills, Irish legislation and Workmen's dwellings.

4. I explained the following Colonial questions a) British Columbia controversy b) Lepine's case, in Canada and Riel c) Natal difficulty. There was a good deal of objection to an Act of Indemnity. d) Eyre's Pension, great dismay at this idea of a bill, but I left it so that I consider myself to do as I please.[455]

Dined at the Derbys. Schouvaloff was there, plausible and agreeable, but as false, I doubt not, as most other Russians.

Thursday 19 November (London)

Cabinet

Disraeli asked me to explain Natal question. I did so, much discussion and questioning, but the only point which the Cabinet had was a great fear of any legislation. They all dread the House of Commons, as I think, very unnecessarily.

Finally it was agreed that I should go on with all my preliminary measures, write my despatches, take steps for recall of Pine, appointment of new Governor, etc. but reserve question of legislation and mode of release of Langalibalele till January.[456]

[455]Edward John Eyre (1815–1901), Governor of Jamaica (1864–1866). Eyre put down a riot at Morant Bay, killing and wounding many people. As Colonial Secretary in 1866, Carnarvon condemned the methods used by Eyre to quell the insurrection. See B.A. Knox, 'The British Government and the Governor Eyre controversy', *Historical Journal*, 19 (1976), pp. 888–894.

[456]Derby wrote after the Cabinet, 'The governor, Sir B. Pine, to be recalled' (Vincent, *Derby*, II, p. 183).

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Friday 20 November (London)

Cabinet

1. Aggravated outrages. Cross read opinion of Judges, etc. as to flogging – large preponderance for it.

2. Adderley produced bill as to unseaworthy ships, differing mainly from Plimsoll's in that survey should not be universal but only on suspicion.[457]

3. Northcote proposed for consideration a scheme of co-organisation, main principle being to transfer roads, poor law, education and sanitary business to an elective Board, leaving to Quarter Sessions judicial, prisons and Lunatic Asylums. A new valuation bill would be necessary. General feeling was against it.

4. At the end of the meeting suddenly like thunder in a clear sky, a storm broke. Cairns spoke of the Judicature bill and the transfer of appellate jurisdiction in it from the House of Lords. Richmond then very pointedly said he hoped that he should not be put in the position he was in last year. He looked at me and soon after repeated it and so pointedly that I took it up and said that my position was such that I had not voted for it, that I did not care to oppose my colleagues but that the strong part which I had taken against this part of the bill in '73 made it impossible for me to do otherwise. Then Cairns joined in and the discussion took rather a disagreeable character. On which Salisbury took up my defence and said that it was monstrous to endeavour to tighten the bonds of party discussion to try to force me to vote for what I had openly opposed. I said something implying it was not impossible for me to vote for it. Cairns said something (I could not say what) about his honour, and the matter closed rather disagreeably but I think with the understanding that I should certainly not give way, and that we should reconsider the actual question of the transfer in January.

As we broke up Richmond came up and said I had misunderstood him in thinking he alluded to me and somewhat apologised. Cairns was also much in the same line. My strong impression however, and Salisbury's, that it had been concerted between them. Disraeli I think did not anticipate it and was annoyed. No one else was prepared for it. Came down to Hatfield and found Lyons there.

[457] Samuel Plimsoll (1824–1898), Lib. MP for Derby (1868–1880), a vigorous campaigner for the compulsory survey of merchant shipping and the creation of a load line. An Act of 1873 had failed to meet Plimsoll's demands. Sir Charles Adderley, an incompetent President of the Board of Trade, promised further legislation. See N. Jones, *The Plimsoll Sensation: the great campaign to save lives at sea* (London, 2006), pp. 131–135.

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Sunday 22 November (Hatfield)

I have had a good deal of conversation with Lyons, amongst other things on the disagreeable question of a possible removal of Derby from the Foreign Office. The subject came up in conversation and I thought it then to talk it over with him as an old friend and one whose opinions could well be trusted. He was strongly in favour of my taking the Foreign Office should the necessity arise.[458] I put it to him whether a foreign policy was really possible for this country. He thought it was though he admitted that we were now living on our prestige and that without stronger armaments our position was hardly one of security. Still he thought it was possible to have a certain voice in European affairs. His points were:

1. No programme at first. It only hampers. Let the policy be ascertained by the acts done and gradually.

2. Absolute veracity in smaller trifles, so as evince entire confidence in every word.

3. Conciliation and personal attention to foreign ministry.

4. Private correspondence with our own Ministers abroad.

Salisbury and Lady S. seem to me to have made up their minds that he would not take the Foreign Office and that I ought in such case to do it. But *absit omen*.

Tuesday 24 November (London)

Had a long conversation with Shepstone as to Natal matters; I think that I have now settled all the main points and that my despatch may go out on Friday week.[459] I heard that the first meeting of the Chiefs on the West Coast of Africa had been held and that the announcement of slave dealing had been made. It is a great step made and I trust all things will go right.[460]

[458]At the end of the year, Derby wrote to Lyons, 'I cannot make head or tail of French internal politics, and presume that most Frenchmen are in the same condition' (T.W. Legh, Baron Newton, *Lord Lyons: a record of British diplomacy* (London, 1913), p. 326).

[459]Carnarvon sent a draft to the Queen of his despatch proposing a conditional pardon for Langalibalele, following 'a very unfavourable judgement and the unquestionably wrong and illegal procedure at Natal' (Carnarvon to Queen Victoria, 28 November 1874: Royal Archives, O32/24).

[460]Carnarvon announced in the Lords that the Gold Coast Governor, G.C. Strahan, was instructed to carry out this policy of the abolition of slavery. He wrote to the Queen, 'Every slave will be at liberty to leave his master without assigning any cause for so doing' (Carnarvon to Queen Victoria, 26 November 1874: Royal Archives, P24/128). The

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Saturday 28 November (London)

I called at Disraeli's. He was still too ill to see me, but I found Cairns there who made a very long face when I came in, and shaking his head, said that he was afraid that Disraeli was very ill. I am myself afraid that it is so, and I wrote a few lines to Corry to advise him to come up. I am very sorry for D. alone, untended, uncared for in the midst of his external power and fancied prosperity. Vanities of vanities. I sometimes doubt whether we are not on the immediate verge of great changes.

Derby came up to town this evening.

Monday 30 November (London)

Plots and intrigues of all kinds are going on upon the supposition that Disraeli cannot last. I dined at the Royal Society, where I had to return thanks for the Government,[461] and returned with Salisbury. Much conversation with him on the point. We are agreed to prevent Richmond stepping in to the place, and it would all be easy enough but that Cairns is clearly pulling the strings. Cairns is a born plotter and of course he would not dislike having Richmond for Prime Minister, as a very flexible and docile puppet.

Tuesday 1 December (London)

Important conversation with Salisbury as to the present intrigues going on in favour of Duke of Richmond.[462] He showed me a letter which he had written on our conversation of last night to Derby urging him in the event of Disraeli's retirement to take the Prime Ministership. It stated the case most clearly as against Richmond,

Gold Coast would be annexed and made a Crown Colony independent of Sierra Leone. Carnarvon had been persuaded by philanthropists to abolish slavery. See Hargreaves, *Prelude to the Partition of West Africa*, pp. 171–172.

[461] 'Anniversary meeting of the Royal Society', *The Times*, 1 December 1874, p. 7. Carnarvon was elected Fellow on 8 April 1875.

[462] Before the meeting Carnarvon had told Salisbury, 'I fear we are on the verge of changes, but *I see my way to combinations that might in the end strengthen us. Nil desperandum*' (Carnarvon to Salisbury, 30 November 1874: Hatfield House Papers, 3M/E).

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urging that he was simply incompetent and that a totally incompetent Prime Minister must lead to anarchy in the Cabinet and contempt out of it. He proposed (in this letter) that he and Derby and I should refuse to serve under Richmond and that this would settle the matter. I entirely agreed.

Interview with Colenso at the Colonial Office. I told him all that I proposed to do in Natal, exacting from him a promise that what I said should be in the strictest confidence. He promised. I told him everything and he then thanked me for all the consideration which I had given to the case and said though he might have preferred that things should be in some respects different he accepted the decision as entirely just and right and promised a loyal support to everything and that he would sanction and allow "no party triumph." Finally, I undertook to effect a personal reconciliation between him and Shepstone.

Saw Shepstone and settled this also.

Wednesday 2 December (London)

Effected a reconciliation between Colenso and Shepstone. They met in my room and shook hands. The Bishop showed a great deal of feeling. Shepstone seemed to be also much affected but in what precise way I cannot be sure.

I gave Shepstone his parting instructions and hinted that I hoped that he might obtain some recognition of his service (i.e. K.C.M.G.) I held out the hope to him yesterday of an increase of salary. He leaves London tomorrow.

Grand Lodge in the evening where I was installed Pro Grand Master. It was a very full attendance.

Thursday 3 December (London)

I announced to Gordon at the Colonial Office that he would be Governor of Fiji. He is an odd fellow for after having desired and almost asked for it he hardly seemed pleased when I told him. However I think this was probably only manner and that he will do well.

Salisbury came over to me to show me an answer from Derby in which he accepted the situation and said that Richmond would not

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succeed.[463] The curious fact of this matter was that he added that the information that Richmond was likely to put forward was entirely new to him. But had not Lady Derby said anything to him after all she said to me?

[463]Derby agreed with Salisbury. In his diary, Derby wrote, 'I am inclined to think that Salisbury's aversion to the notion of having Richmond for chief is due to the fact that the Duke is entirely under the influence of Cairns. S. [Salisbury] being a strong high churchman, fears nothing more than that Cairns, who is low, should virtually make bishops and guide ecclesiastical policy: he would prefer a neutral, like myself, whom he might hope in some degree to guide' (Vincent, *Derby*, II, p. 184).

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