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## CORRESPONDENCE

In reply to the Address to His Excellency the Governor-General, on the subject of the transmission of the Judge's notes with an application for the remission of a sentence.

By Command.

T. BASIL HUMPHREYS,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

*Provincial Secretary's Office,*  
19th August, 1878.

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*The Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.*

OTTAWA, 10th June, 1878.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-General has had under consideration in Council your despatch, No. 23, of the 18th of last March, and the accompanying copy of an Address of the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia, and of a Minute of your Executive Council, on the subject of the present mode of dealing with petitions praying for remission of sentence, and offering certain suggestions with a view to obviating the inconvenience or injustice supposed to arise from the custom which now prevails in disposing of such petitions.

I have to state, for the information of your Government, that His Excellency is advised that it would be inexpedient to delegate to you the discretion suggested in the Address. A more convenient course, His Excellency is advised, would be to request the Judges, upon such petitions being presented to them, to transmit the same together with a report upon the case and a copy of the evidence to me. The inconvenience or injustice which the Address refers to will thus, it is considered, be fully obviated.

A communication to the above effect has been made to the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court. I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. W. SCOTT,  
*Secretary of State.*

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