

Confidential

Bern, August 21. 1853

Sir,

Nearly two months have now elapsed since I communicated to your Excellency the reply made by Count Breda to the propositions submitted to him with your knowledge and approval by the Earl of Westmoreland, and Her Majesty's Government

Messieurs Häff

that

President of the Swiss Confederation

Dodis



that that reply led your
 Excellency to hope for a speedy
 termination of the differences
 between Switzerland and Austria.

I have not failed to
 explain from time to time
 to Her Majesty's Government the
 causes of the delay which has
 arisen here, and to assure
 them that to no one has it
 caused more disappointment
 and regret than to your
 Excellency.

I have explained that
 the

The Federal Council has waited
 for the government of the Union to
 decide whether it will or will not
 give pensions for life to the expelled
 monks, that you had hoped
 that this would have been decided
 affirmatively some time since,
 and that, after an unexpectedly
 prolonged delay, it has latterly
 appeared probable that the
 Council of State of the Union
 would neither take on itself the
 responsibility of granting the
 pensions for life nor commit the
 Grand Council to submit a
 proposal to that effect for its
 adoption

adoption.

It appears now to be understood that the Canton of the Tenin will not grant the pensions. Some influential members of the government of that Canton have made overtures to the Sardinian *Chargé d'Affaires*, to obtain from the friendship of the Sardinian Government the means of establishing the expelled monks in Sardinian convents, in the hope that Austria may be content with such a provision for them. Much as I desire the

Success

success of this expedient, I do
 not entertain sanguine hopes of
 its success; and should it fail,
 the further loss of time which
 will have been incurred may
 be injurious to the interests of
 Ireland.

I think then this a suitable
 moment for representing once
 more to your Excellency the
 anxious desire of my government
 that the Federal Council should
 do everything in its power to
 accelerate an arrangement
 with

with Austria, and with this
view send some one on a
special mission to Vienna, with
full powers to make an
arrangement.

I need not say that
Her Majesty's Government is
actuated only by a disinterested
desire for the welfare of
Switzerland. The Federal
Council have received many
proofs that Her Majesty's Government
is anxious to render every
assistance in its power to
obtain for Switzerland what is
just.

just, and would never advise
what is injurious to the honour of
Switzerland.

It is perhaps still possible
that, if the government of the
Lombard reason to doubt the
success of their project of provision
for the monks in Sardinian
convents, they may consent to
part the pensions be left. But
if this be hopeless, can no other
proposal be made to the
Austrian government by means
of a special survey? Could not
some concessions on the part
of Austria be suggested, which
might induce the government
of

of the Union to grant the pension?

The sending of a special envoy
to Vienna would itself be a step
entitling Switzerland to some
corresponding consideration from
Austria, — some benefit in the
negotiation. I have always
thought that by sending a
special envoy to Vienna Switzerland
might gain very much more
than a mere arrangement of
the existing differences, which
might perhaps be otherwise
effected. Such an envoy might
address perhaps to the Emperor
of

of Austria himself, explanations
 on many subjects now perhaps
 misunderstood by the Austrian
 Government, might represent the
 wishes of Switzerland on many
 points in which the goodwill and
 cooperation of Austria are
 important, might lay the
 foundations of cordial relations
 in the future, and, I need not
 say, might at the same time
 materially ameliorate the
 arrangements actually to be made.

I have heard it said
 that to send an envoy to Vienna
 would

would be inconsistent with the
honour of Switzerland and an
act of self-humiliation.

I will not give an opinion
of my own on the differences
between Switzerland and Austria,
which your Excellency will hardly
expect from me. But I will
take the Swiss view, which is, that
the blockade of the Ticino has
not been justified by any conduct
of that Canton either in reference
to the outbreak at Milan or
with regard to refugees, that
the

the blockade has violated a treaty,
 that the government of the Venin
 had a right to expel the Lombard
 monks, that Savin citizens have
 been ill-treated in the Austrian
 dominions or arbitrarily expelled
 from them without compensation,
 that, even if wrong was done,
 the expulsion of upwards of
 six thousand Veninians has been
 an immoderate and cruel
 retribution, that Austria has
 by that act taken upon herself
 the responsibility of compensating
 the monks, and that as
 regards refugees you fulfil your
 international!

international duties and
 deserve none of the reproaches
 cast upon you. Admit this
 view of the question; and what
 would there be humiliating in
 sending an envoy to Vienna
 to represent this view in digni-
 fied but conciliatory language,
 to state that he is sent in the
 hope that his explanations
 may remove misunderstandings
 and ill will which a long
 correspondence has failed to put
 an end to, and to point to his
 presence at Vienna as a proof
 at

at once of the confidence of
 Switzerland in the justice of
 her cause and of her
 readiness to make every
 honourable concession to avert
 war and establish friendly
 relations with Austria?

The forbearance and
 moderation hitherto shown by the
 Federal Council might be
 stigmatised as humiliating,
 and these are those who have
 so characterised it. The Majesty's
 Government, indeed, the Federal
 Council

Council credit for a firm
 belief in the justice of their
 cause, have regarded their
 forbearance and moderation
 as proving an honourable desire
 for a peaceful solution, and
 have never doubted the readiness
 of Switzerland to defend her
 honour by arms, if unfortunately
 war should become necessary.

Let me then urge your
 Excellency and your colleagues
 of the Federal Council to devise
 some proposals to be sent to
 Vienna

Vienna by a special envoy.

I have conversed lately with many members of the Federal Assembly of different political opinions, and I ^{have} found that none of them objected to the plan of a special mission to Vienna for the arrangement of the differences.

I trust, after the time that has now elapsed, and after what has been said by Count Buel on the subject, that the Federal Council will not continue to insist on the envoy's first proceeding to Milan to confer there

them with the local authorities.

Such a commencement of the mission at Milan would be a mere form. In reality it would be a waste of time. Will not your chance of obtaining concessions of real value be lessened by insisting on the concession of a point of form? If you are to perform a precious act, is it not better to be completely precious?

Your Excellency knows that any person whom the Federal Council may think proper to

send

sent to Vienna will receive
every possible assistance from
the Land of Westphalia, who
has already, under the
directions of the Majesty's
Government, zealously exerted
himself to promote an
arrangement of the differences.
If the Federal Council send
a special envoy to Vienna,
they will have established by
this act of conciliation an
additional claim on the
good offices of friendly governments.

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I am anxious to avoid
myself of this occasion to renew
to your Excellency the assurance
of my distinguished consideration.

W. S. Christie

5483. a

Post. Auflegung vom 31 Dec
1853.

Grossbritannien
vom 21 Aug. 53

Zur Auffassung des Kaufmanns
Luttenberg

W. S. C...