

cargo of six thousand stand of arms, for the militia of the lower province, failed to arrive, Prevost was in consequence compelled to draw upon the ordnance depot at Halifax to supply deficiencies and much delay occurred in completing their equipment.*

Before leaving Halifax on his return to England, Mr. Foster wrote that a bill which had passed the house of Representatives for the purpose of promoting an insurrection in Canada had been defeated in the Senate and he had good reason to believe that no serious attempt would be made to invade the lower province for some time to come. He again emphasised the advantage that would be derived from abstaining from any invasion of the United States which might afford its government a plea for making a strong appeal for the support of the militia from the Eastern States.†

About the same time it was announced that the inhabitants of the frontier townships in Vermont and Lower Canada had voluntarily entered into a mutual agreement to abstain from molesting one another.‡

After completing his arrangements for the defence of Montreal, the Governor General returned to open the special session of the legislature. In his speech he briefly referred to the declaration of war by the United States and declared that he relied upon the spirit of His Majesty's subjects, their well known attachment to, and zeal for, the religion of their ancestors, their loyalty to their Sovereign, and their ardent love for the true interests of their country; and that he should depend implicitly under Divine Providence, upon their best exertions, aided by the courage and loyalty of the militia and by the valour, skill and discipline of the regular troops for repelling all hostile attacks. The necessary maintenance of the militia and other expenses connected with the approaching campaign would cause considerable expenditure and he must rely upon their wisdom and public spirit for the provision of all supplies required by the emergency. He expressed his satisfaction at the appearance and discipline of the battalions of embodied militia he had recently inspected and believed they would contribute materially to the successful defence of the province.

As usual the reply of the Assembly echoed in a general way the sonorous sentences of the speech from the throne.

"Your Excellency may place full confidence," it declared, "in the spirit of His Majesty's subjects throughout the province; their attachment and zeal for the religion of their forefathers, their loyalty to their Sovereign and their ardent love for the true interests of their country,

*Prevost to Sherbrooke, July 18.

†Foster to Prevost, July 18 and 20.

‡Baynes to Brock, July 10.