

Patterson left for Quebec to present his case to Lord Dorchester. (For letter from Patterson to Dorchester, of 6th July, see Q. 28, p. 113, and for Dorchester's report to Sydney, of 18th August, see the same volume, p. 111.) But the trials of Lieut.-Governor Fanning were not over; several of the members of Council had resigned, whose places must be filled; he complained that the military officers refused to support him, and a report was current that Patterson intended to return. Added to these troubles was the uneasiness caused by the expression of opinion from Mr. Under-Secretary Nepean, that he was wrong to issue the proclamation of 10th April, whilst Patterson held the government. But the charges against Patterson were too serious to be overlooked. On the 14th of August, 1788, the Collector of Customs reported that in attempting to seize contraband goods he had been defeated by the smugglers employed by the late Lieut.-Governor and his brother John, and in February, 1789, a public charge of the same nature was made against the two brothers. What were the specific charges against Patterson that were examined by the Privy Council are not clearly stated in the documents, but he complained of the mortifying result of the investigation and most of his Council, as well as himself, were deprived of office, although there appears to have been some hesitation with regard to the Council, owing to apprehension of difficulty in filling the vacancies.

The first printing press on the island was set up by Mr. Robertson in 1788, the sole reference to this fact being a notice that he was employed in December, of that year, to print the laws. These must have been kept most irregularly, so that it was with great difficulty the Acts could be collected for printing. The state of affairs in this respect may be seen in Fanning's dispatch of 20th May, 1792, when he transmitted the printed collection. In this he stated that only loose and incorrect copies had been found, but he reported that these had been carefully revised and corrected and he appears to have been satisfied with their authenticity. The business of a printer did not appear to be remunerative, as Robertson left immediately after the Acts of 1798 were printed.

The defenceless state in which the Island was left appears from the correspondence on the occasion of the apprehended war with Spain in 1790 and subsequently on that of the declaration of war by the French authorities in 1793. Apparently Fanning did not believe that a war would take place with Spain, a belief which turned out to be well founded, but he offered, should a war break out, to serve in a military capacity and suggested an attack on Florida, then held by Spain, the capture of which would afford an asylum to southern loyalists, who could not stand the northern cold. The treaty of peace in October, 1790, put an end to projects of this kind, although Fanning did not learn of the settlement of the dispute till June of the following year.

The war with France, declared in 1793, threatened to be of more dangerous consequence to the island, but the capture of St. Pierre and Miquelon by Ogilvie lessened the chances of an attack from that quarter. Owing to the demand for men required for agricultural operations, some difficulty was experienced in collecting the militia, but by December the ice acted as a sure defence against an attack on the coasts. In the spring of 1794, a corps of 200 men was ordered to be raised for whom arms were to be supplied from Halifax and Fanning offered, besides the levy money, 100 acres of his own land to each recruit who should enlist before the 1st of November. This gratuity was not accepted by government, the Secretary of State informing Fanning that it was not intended His Majesty's service should be provided for at his personal expense. In common with the other provinces voluntary contributions were made for defraying the cost