

## — No. 5. —

No. 5.  
Governor Douglas  
to Earl Grey.  
16 Dec. 1851.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated  
Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 16 December 1851.

(Received, 2 March 1852.)

"SINCE I had last the honour of addressing your Lordship, two vessels from the American ports, in Paget Sound, bound to Queen Charlotte's Island, have touched at this port. They had collectively about 60 passengers on board, who were going thither for the purpose of digging gold: it is also currently reported, that several vessels, filled with passengers, have sailed from the Columbia and California for the same quarter. Their presence on the coast will, I fear, be productive of much evil, and lead to serious difficulties with the native tribes. It has also occurred to me that those adventurers may possibly attempt to plunder the British trading posts on the neighbouring coast; and I will further submit for your Lordship's consideration the probability of their becoming formidable from the mere force of numbers, and, should gold prove abundant, putting Government to much future trouble and expense in guarding national rights, unless measures are immediately taken to restrain the subjects of the United States and other foreign powers from entering or forming settlements on that island."

## — No. 6. —

No. 6.  
H. Merivale, Esq.  
to Captain  
Hamilton.  
24 March 1852.

COPY of a LETTER from *H. Merivale*, Esq. to Captain *Hamilton*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 24 March 1852.

I AM directed by Sir John Pakington to transmit to you for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a despatch from the Governor of Vancouver's Island, reporting the resort to Queen Charlotte's Island of adventurers from the United States and elsewhere, and I am to request that you will call their Lordships' attention to the reasons therein alleged for stationing a ship of war off the coast, to protect both national rights and private interests.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *H. Merivale*.

## — No. 7. —

No. 7.  
Governor Douglas  
to Earl Grey.  
29 January 1852.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor *Douglas* to Earl *Grey*; dated  
Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 29 January 1852.

(Received, 3 May 1852.)

"IN my communication of the 16th December, of which I herewith transmit a duplicate, I informed your Lordship that several vessels had sailed, and that others were reported to be fitting out, in the American Ports of Oregon and California, for the coast of Queen Charlotte's Island.

These vessels are chartered by large bodies of American adventurers, who are proceeding thither for the purpose of digging gold; and if they succeed in that object, it is said to be their intention to colonise the island, and establish an independent government, until, by force or fraud, they become annexed to the United States. They look forward and are prepared to encounter much opposition from Her Majesty's Government, but they speak very confidently as to their numbers, which can be recruited to almost any desirable extent, from the floating population in California; and the ultimate success of their enterprise is considered by them as a matter admitting scarcely of a doubt. This report is believed, and the chances of success are openly discussed in the best-informed circles in Oregon. \* \* \* \*

One of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels (the "Una"), which made a voyage to Mitchell's Harbour, on the west side of Queen Charlotte's Island, in  
November