

PAPERS RELATING TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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I also herewith transmit, for your information, copy of a Despatch which I addressed to Rear-Admiral Baynes on the 12th of May last, which will further explain the motives which have induced me to make this requisition on you.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES DOUGLAS,
Governor.

COPY of LETTER from JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, Captain H.M.S. "Satellite," to Governor DOUGLAS, dated Point Roberts, 22d May 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, dated Hudson's Bay Company's steamer "Otter," off Point Roberts, 21st May 1858, acquainting me of your intention to appoint a collector of Customs for the district of Fraser's River, and requesting that a detachment, sufficiently strong to maintain, if requisite, by force of arms the authority of the laws, may be furnished from Her Majesty's ship "Satellite," to support the collector in the exercise of his office, as the British frontier is now violated by foreign vessels in the most open manner.

2. In reply thereto I have to acquaint you, that I purpose to take my gig with me on our excursion up Fraser's River, and I have now ordered the launch of the "Satellite," with her crew, and a detachment of marines consisting of one non-commissioned officer and four privates, to be ready to accompany us as far as Fort Langley. The launch will be in the charge of Lieutenant Gooch of the "Satellite," and he will be instructed to pay due attention to any requisitions the collector of Customs may make to him.

3. I trust that the presence of this boat in the river will have the desired effect of preserving order, and that there will be no necessity to require her to have recourse to active measures for the enforcement of the law.

4. As I have already explained to your Excellency in my Despatch of the 18th instant, the "Satellite" has special duties to perform, and as for the execution of those duties, I am necessitated to return in the course of a fortnight to Vancouver's Island, I shall be obliged to withdraw the launch from Fraser's River upon the departure of the ship from Point Roberts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES C. PREVOST,
Captain H.M. Ship "Satellite,"
and Senior Naval Officer present.

COPY of Letter from JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, Captain H.M.S. "Satellite," to Governor DOUGLAS, dated Esquimalt, Vancouver's Island, 9th June 1858.

SIR,

ON the receipt of the last mail from England, upon my return to this anchorage, I find that the services of the "Satellite," in connection with the special duty upon which she is employed, are not likely to be called into requisition until about the end of the present month, I shall therefore, until that time, be ready to render you any assistance that I may be able in regard to the preservation of territorial rights and the maintenance of the laws, under the peculiar and unforeseen circumstances consequent upon the discovery of gold in Fraser's River, as alluded to in your Despatch of the 15th May 1858, and in my reply thereto of the 18th May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES C. PREVOST,
Captain H.M.S. "Satellite," and Senior Officer
present at Vancouver's Island.

COPY of Letter from Governor DOUGLAS to JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, Captain H.M.S. "Satellite," dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 14th June 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, informing me with reference to my letter to you of the 15th ultimo, and to your reply thereto of the 18th ultimo, that in consequence of the special duty upon which the "Satellite" is employed not requiring her services until about the end of the present month, you can until that time render me any assistance that you may be able in regard to the preservation of territorial rights and to the maintenance of the laws, under the circumstances consequent upon the discovery of gold in Fraser's River.

In reply thereto, I beg to offer you my best thanks for your ready co-operation, and I would therefore request you would be good enough to proceed again with the "Satellite" to the entrance to Fraser's River, for the purpose of continuing the beneficial moral effect which I have every reason to feel sure has already been produced by her former display at that point; and I have also to request you will again detach the launch of the "Satellite" to proceed to Fort Langley with sufficient force, and instructions to the officer in charge of her to render all necessary assistance to the officer of the Customs at that place should he experience any opposition to the discharge of his duties.

In making this requisition, I am fully aware of the unusual and great temptations to desert to which those employed will be exposed; and of its being almost more than can be expected; that men, with no greater inducements than the ordinary remuneration of the service, can under such circumstances wholly resist the exciting and wonderful tales which are to be everywhere heard, I am therefore endeavouring to establish a fund to meet the necessary expenses of the Revenue