

remaining in Canada after these reductions shall have been carried into effect, will have to be quartered in Quebec.

The Canadian Rifles you will station at Kingston, and two companies of that corps should be detached for service at Montreal.

This distribution of the forces under your command involves the abandonment of the several outposts which have been heretofore maintained within the province, and you will lose no time in making the necessary preparations for this purpose.

A discretion will, however, rest with you to leave small parties at such of the outposts, Niagara for instance, as you may perhaps think right to maintain until the new arrangement be completed, and detach non-commissioned officers and soldiers in charge of Government buildings and barracks, until these shall be given up to the colonial government, or otherwise disposed of.

You are aware that the 16th Regiment, at present in Jamaica, is to proceed to Quebec to replace the 26th Regiment, which has been ordered to Bermuda.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

(Copy.)

No. 8.

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COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Honourable SIR G. GREY to Governor Sir EDMUND HEAD.

(No. 16.)

SIR,

Downing Street, 13th April 1855.

HER Majesty's Government have long had under their consideration the necessity of establishing a clear understanding with the Government of Canada, on the subject of the measures mutually to be taken for the military defence of the province, and the subsidiary arrangements requisite to that end.

2. Although Canada is happily remote from the direct influence of those hostilities in which this country is at present engaged, it becomes now even more necessary than before, that the available military resources of the Empire in general, and the purposes to which they are applicable, should be fully ascertained.

3. Relying on the loyalty and patriotism of the inhabitants of Canada, no less than on their rapid advance in all that constitutes the strength of a community, Her Majesty's Government have not scrupled to reduce the military force stationed in the colony in time of peace, much below the amount which in former times had been thought advisable; and the result of the measures thus taken has hitherto fully justified their experience. The course of events of recent years has more and more fully developed the attachment of the Canadian people to the institutions under which they live; the gratifying proofs which have been so lately acknowledged by me, of the deep interest which they take in the success of the arms of Great Britain and her allies in the present contest, have been strongly felt by all classes throughout these kingdoms; and it is with a feeling of deep satisfaction that we are enabled to congratulate ourselves on the union thus cemented between communities so far severed by local position, but joined by the ties of common freedom, and of loyal attachment to one Sovereign.

4. Her Majesty's Government propose to make no change in the principle of the relations now subsisting between this country and the province, as regards its military defence. The Imperial Government will remain charged, as before, with the supply and maintenance of military force, for the defence of Canada, as of every other part of Her Majesty's dominions, in the event of its being menaced by foreign arms. They propose also to continue to maintain the force now existing in Canada, or whatever force may be strictly required for the military occupation of the few posts of first-class importance, so as to form a nucleus for the defence of the province.

5. For all beyond this, they propose to rely on the loyalty and military spirit of the province itself. They are fully aware that if the contingency, now happily remote, should ever occur, of an invasion of Canada by foreign arms, the most valuable aid to the reinforcements of troops which could be supplied from this country, would be afforded by the courage and numbers of an organized militia,