

Inclosure 11 in No. 46.

Captain Hornby to Rear-Admiral Baynes.

Sir,

"Tribune," Island of San Juan, August 15, 1859.

I THINK it requisite to draw your attention to the position that the United States' authorities are now taking up, as it differs so materially from their original one.

2. At first, they landed fifty men, and professed that their object was to protect their citizens, especially against Indians. Now they have 400 soldiers on shore, with six field-pieces, eight 32-pounders mounted, and it is said six more iron guns, under cover, in their camp.

3. Six of their heavy guns are placed on the ridge of the hill overlooking this harbour, and by throwing up a parapet they would make them inaccessible to us, whilst they would command the harbour; even in their present position they would be difficult to silence. The other two heavy guns are placed to defend their camp.

4. They seem to me, therefore, not only to be prepared to defend themselves, but to threaten us.

5. It will be clear to you that I have now no chance of protecting our Magistrate by landing, and consequently that he cannot enforce English law here. Further than that, if they chose to call upon him to suspend his functions, or to haul down his flag (and these seem to be the natural sequences of the vigorous steps they are taking to seize the island), I conceive that, by your orders, I should have to embark him, and then fire on their camp, to resent the insult to the flag and country; and this I should do unless I hear from you to the contrary.

6. Meantime, I fear lest they should hereafter construe our tacit observance of all their operations into an admission of their right to the island, and say that we had, without dispute, allowed them to exercise every sovereign right, from administration of law to fortifying the island.

7. It is still reported that the Sheriff of Whatcom county is shortly to visit the island for the purpose of assessing the property and levying taxes on it. In case of their again levying the law from Mr. Griffin, on the Hudson's Bay Company's farms, I should wish instructions as to the steps I am to take.

8. It is also reported that General Harney is shortly expected with five companies of Artillery (420 men).

I have not hitherto mentioned reports to you, but all previous ones have been so exactly verified that I think it my duty to mention these.

9. They are continually landing supplies of all sorts, and have now on the beach large quantities of lumber fit for gun-platforms, scantling of barracks, &c., so that there is every symptom of their occupation being permanent.

10. Major De Courcy has received no instructions lately from Victoria, and would therefore be bound to act as a Magistrate if called upon by any Englishman.

11. The "Satellite" sailed this morning at daylight; the United States' steamer "Shubrick" started to the northward at 7 A.M., and the United States' steamer "Active," for the Columbia River, yesterday afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEOFFREY PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 12 in No. 46.

*Orders issued to Captain Hornby.**"Ganges," in Esquimalt Harbour, Vancouver's Island,
August 16, 1859.*

Memo.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, drawing my attention to the position the United States' troops are