

Should, however, any of the inhabitants of Buffalo or other frontier towns, regardless of these sentiments, for the sake of plunder, invade the free and independent people of Upper Canada, I feel confident that every man in the province, Indians and black population included, will assemble together in one band to exterminate the invaders, or to perish in the attempt.

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
19 Dec. 1837.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

Adjutant-general's Office, Toronto, 4 Dec. 1837.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-governor has pleasure in announcing to the militia of Upper Canada, that, in consequence of the present disturbed state of the Lower Province, several regiments have gallantly expressed their readiness to co-operate, in case of necessity, with Her Majesty's troops, in protecting their fellow-subjects in Lower Canada, in the maintenance of the revered laws and institutions of the British empire.

Enclosure 1, in
No. 1.

While this spirit, so honourable to Upper Canada, and so fully in accordance with the character of its inhabitants, has been manifested in various portions of the province, his Excellency has with regret received information from various quarters, that, in certain portions of the Home and London districts, a number of individuals have been seen assembled, as if for the purpose of drilling, some of them bearing arms, although not called upon by public authority, nor acting under the orders of any officer appointed by the Crown.

Whatever may be the motive of such assemblages, the Lieutenant-governor is of opinion, that they are calculated to excite alarm in the minds of all peaceable inhabitants, and that, being contrary to law, they are inconsistent with that duty and allegiance which it is the pride of all faithful subjects to cherish.

The Lieutenant-governor has therefore determined to call upon all persons in public authority, as well as upon all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in Upper Canada, to unite together in maintaining the high character which this province now holds in the esteem and affection of the mother country, by discountenancing such illegal meetings, and by doing all in their power to discover and make known those who promote and take part in them.

With this object in view, the Lieutenant-governor directs that the colonels of militia throughout the province shall, upon receiving this order, call out their respective regiments, and acquaint them of the above circumstances; as also that his Excellency's offer to Sir John Colborne of Her Majesty's troops who were in this province, has been accepted: that as soon as the navigation closes, their return may be deemed impracticable: that even if it were not so, his Excellency on no account whatever would consent to deprive the Lower Province, during this winter, of their assistance: that Her Majesty's stores, arms and ammunition have been intrusted by his Excellency to the civil authorities; and that the period has consequently arrived for his Excellency to call upon the militia of Upper Canada to do justice to the honourable confidence which, under circumstances so flattering to their character, has been publicly reposed in their valour and in their loyalty.

Upon the militia of Upper Canada, as the constitutional force of the country, the Lieutenant-governor relies with confidence for aiding the civil powers, firmly to maintain the laws, and to protect all classes of The Queen's subjects in the full enjoyment of their rights and liberties; and his Excellency is fully assured that, if necessity should arise, the inhabitants of Upper Canada will not fail to place on record an honourable example of a people who, appreciating the blessings of peace and freedom, will allow no political differences of opinion to prevent them, when duly called upon, uniting to support their religion, the Crown and the laws.

His Excellency therefore directs the colonels of militia throughout the province, immediately to make such arrangements as may appear to them most judicious, for enabling their respective corps to act with promptness and effect, should any emergency render their services necessary. And in case the civil authorities should find occasion to suppress an illegal meeting, his Excellency especially refers to the 9th section of the Militia Act, passed in the 48th year of the reign of his late Majesty George the Third, relying that the officers commanding regiments will, with alacrity, firmness and discretion, exercise the powers therein given to them, of suppressing with the force of their respective regiments any attempts that may be made to oppose the civil magistrates, or to disturb the peace of the country.

The Lieutenant-governor is proud to believe, that Upper Canada is the only portion of the British empire divested of military support, and he feels confident that the mother country, as well as the continent of America, respect the steady peaceful conduct which at present so peculiarly distinguishes the inhabitants of the Upper Province of the Canadas.

By Order of his Excellency,

James Fitzgibbon,
Acting Adjutant-general of Militia.