

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

COPY of LETTER from Governor DOUGLAS to JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, Captain H.M.S.
"Satellite," dated Victoria, Vancouver's Island, 15th May 1858.

SIR,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copy of a Proclamation lately issued, in consequence of reported violations of the British territory by foreign boats and vessels, and of infringements of the chartered rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, warning all persons that such acts are contrary to law, and that whosoever takes part in them will be subjected to the penalties which the law denounces against such offences.

No military force being maintained by this Colony, I am under the necessity of calling upon you to furnish an effective force for the purpose of carrying out the measures proposed and set forth in my Proclamation, and generally to enforce obedience to the laws.

I have also to inform you that I propose leaving this Colony for a short time, on an excursion to the Falls of Fraser's River, for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the country, and ascertaining, as far as can be effected from personal observation, the character of the navigation to that point, subjects in respect to which Her Majesty's Government are especially desirous to obtain information; and I think it desirable that you should accompany me on that journey, and that the "Satellite" should proceed at the same time to Point Roberts, as an imposing display of force at that point will have a powerful moral effect, and prevent much future evil.

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

COPY of a LETTER from JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, Captain H.M.S. "Satellite," to Governor DOUGLAS, dated Esquimalt, 18th May 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 15th instant, transmitting for my information a copy of a Proclamation lately issued, in consequence of reported violations of British territory by foreign boats and vessels, and requesting, as there is no military force maintained by this Colony, that I will furnish an effective force for the purpose of carrying out the measures proposed; and informing me of your intention of leaving the Colony for a short time on an excursion to the Falls of Fraser's River, with the object of inquiring into the state of the country, and proposing that I should accompany you on that journey, and that the "Satellite" should proceed with us as far as Point Roberts, as you deem that an imposing display of force at that point will have a powerful moral effect, and prevent much future evil; and also forwarding for my information the copy of a letter which you have recently addressed to the Commander-in-Chief on the Pacific Station, in which the circumstances attendant upon the discovery of gold on Fraser's River, and the causes which have led to your present action, are more fully detailed.

In reply thereto I beg your Excellency will permit me to assure you, that under the peculiar circumstances in which you are placed, and the self-evident and urgent necessity that exists for the assertion and preservation of the rights of territory, I shall be most ready to co-operate with you in any way, and to afford you any assistance that I may be able, and that it may be within the limits of my power to grant; but, as your Excellency is aware, the "Satellite" is employed on a particular and special service, which has claims upon her prior to all others, and therefore the assistance I can at present render is very limited. For the next fortnight, however, the deviation of the ship from her particular duties will not be of any consequence, and therefore I am able to accede to your Excellency's requisition regarding the display of the ship at Point Roberts, and I shall be able to accompany you in person upon your proposed visit to the neighbourhood of the Gold Regions. I therefore propose to quit this anchorage to-morrow morning, and to proceed in the "Satellite" to Point Roberts, where I will await further communication from your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES PREVOST,
Captain H.M.S. "Satellite."

COPY of LETTER from Governor DOUGLAS to JAMES C. PREVOST, Esquire, dated Hudson's Bay Company's Steamer "Otter," off Point Roberts, 21st May 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE further to communicate, for your information in respect to the enforcement of the Revenue laws in and about the entrance of Fraser's River, that it is my present intention to appoint Augustin Welling, now residing at Fort Langley, to the management and collection of the Customs for the district of Fraser's River, and the performance of all duties connected with that office. He will require the assistance of a well-appointed military force in support of his authority, as the British frontier is now violated by American vessels in the most open manner.

I have, therefore, in the Queen's name, to request 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," now under your command, and directed to proceed without delay to Fort Langley, in tow of the Hudson's Bay Company's propeller "Otter."