

No. 46.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR-GENERAL the
MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, February 24, 1885.

ON the 19th instant* I briefly acknowledged by telegraph the offers made by Canadian officers, with the sanction of the Dominion Government, to supply troops for military service in Egypt, and I have now great pleasure in assuring you that the Queen was much gratified by these loyal proposals, and has commanded me to express Her Majesty's high appreciation of the patriotic spirit by which they were prompted.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware that a contingent specially enrolled from the various local battalions of the Dominion, and commanded by such officers as Major-General Laurie and Colonel Williams, will, should circumstances admit of its employment in the present operations, form a very valuable addition to the forces under Lord Wolseley's command; and although they are not in a position to give directions for its immediate enrolment, they will inform you as soon as possible whether it will be in their power to avail themselves of a Canadian brigade at a later period of the year.

I am well aware that although Canada has fortunately had no occasion, and is not likely to have occasion, owing to the friendly feelings of its great neighbour and its distance from the complications of the Old World, to use its military resources, a powerful force could rapidly be raised in the various Provinces of the Dominion, and would be cheerfully placed at the disposal of the Queen for service beyond the sea in any exigency. Many thousands of these men have been well drilled, and excellent provision has been made for the education of their officers, and Her Majesty's Government are sensible that the spirited offers which have caused so much pleasure to this country represent but a small fraction of the assistance which would be readily tendered by the people of Canada if the necessity for it should arise.

The Marquis of Lansdowne.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 47.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR the RIGHT HON.
LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES.)

MY LORD,

Downing Street, February 24, 1885.

WITH reference to the telegraphic communications which have passed between us respecting the offer of the Government of New South Wales to supply, for service in the Soudan, batteries of permanent field artillery and a battalion of infantry, all fully equipped and provisioned for immediate employment, it is my pleasing duty to convey to you a renewed assurance of the great satisfaction with which the Queen received the intelligence of this loyal offer. Her Majesty was very deeply gratified by the prompt and spontaneous action of the Colony, and it has given me sincere pleasure to find that, as the contingent is fully prepared and will sail in a few days, it has been possible to employ it in the more immediate military operations.

The progress which has been made by New South Wales in common with the other Australasian Colonies during recent years in organising the local defensive forces has been great and praiseworthy; but I could hardly have anticipated that your Government would be in a position to supply immediately, and with complete efficiency, an important contingent fully prepared for foreign service in a distant country.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much pleasure that the generous desire of your Government that the New South Wales contingent should be placed at the disposal of the Queen without any cost to the people of this country has been warmly supported by most liberal private donations; and that large sums, amounting to many thousands of pounds, have already been contributed by gentlemen in the Colony to defray the expenses of the force.

Lord Augustus Loftus.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.