

the Queen and to yourself, from the Legislative Council and House^w Assembly of Prince Edward's Island, praying that the detachment of troops now stationed there may not be withdrawn.

You will acquaint the Council and the House of Assembly, that I have laid their dutiful address before the Queen, and that Her Majesty was pleased to receive the same very graciously; but that I have not felt myself at liberty to advise Her Majesty to comply with the prayer of the address.

If the colony were threatened with danger of aggression, Her Majesty's Government would not be slow in affording every assistance for its protection, but no such danger is threatened; and we feel that it is not right to relieve the Legislature of Prince Edward's Island from the duty and the charge of maintaining a force,—whether it be police, militia, or enrolled pensioners,—of sufficient amount to preserve the internal peace of the colony.

We are now reducing the garrisons of both Canada and Nova Scotia; but some troops must be left there for the occupation of important military works, or for other purposes which are purely military. In Prince Edward's Island, there are no works which require to be occupied for military purposes, or which might not equally well be occupied by a militia force; nor is there any object for which a military force can be at all necessary, excepting that of preserving the peace.

I have now to remind you again that you have not replied to the question which was referred to you by my predecessor, in his despatch of the 2nd of July last, as to the period when it would be perfectly convenient to your government that arrangements should be made for withdrawing the troops, thereby inviting you, of course, to consider the propriety of making arrangements for replacing the troops either by police, militia, or enrolled pensioners, as soon as may be practicable.

I have held out some expectation that it might be practicable to send out a company of pensioners, or at least as many men as, with those now in the colony, might form a company; but the realization of that expectation must be conditional upon the facility of obtaining lands for the men, as well as upon the colony being prepared to find labour for them for some months after their arrival, and also of erecting cottages for their habitation, and upon paying them for those days on which their services may be required under arms.

It only remains for me to state that I propose to instruct the Major-General commanding in Nova Scotia, to withdraw the troops from Prince Edward's Island before the setting in of the ensuing winter season.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 17.

No. 17.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE to
Lieut.-Governor SIR A. BANNERMAN.

No. 4.

SIR,

Downing Street, 1st December 1858.

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 3, military, of the 30th August, enclosing a petition from the inhabitants of Queen's County to Her Majesty, relative to the withdrawal of the troops from Prince Edward's Island.

I have laid this petition before Her Majesty, who was pleased to receive the same very graciously.

But I have not been able to advise Her Majesty to reconsider the determination already communicated to you by my Despatch of the 22nd of April last. I could not recommend that the military should be maintained in the Island to do the duty which ought to be accomplished by an effective local police, especially when such maintenance is at the cost of repeated and numerous desertions. The establishment of a police force to perform the services properly belonging to such a body, and the framing and execution of really effective measures to check desertion, are preliminaries indispensable towards any reconsideration of the decision thus arrived at by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) NEWCASTLE.