

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to the Officer Administering the Government.

No. 3.

SIR, Downing Street, 21st December 1853.

It had been the intention of Her Majesty's Government not to relieve the 71st Foot, which is appointed to come home.

Although, however, I have consented that it shall now be relieved by the 67th Foot, I request that it may be understood that such one of the regiments now serving in Canada, whose time it may be to come home in the ensuing year, or in the course of the ensuing fifteen months, will not be relieved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 4.

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COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart., to the Earl of ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

(No. 17.)

MY LORD,

Downing Street, 11th August 1854.

THE war in which, in conjunction with our Allies, England is engaged with Russia, has led the people of this country, as your Lordship is aware, to make extraordinary exertions in order to supply Her Majesty with the means of prosecuting it with vigour and efficiency.

A large British force has been landed in Turkey, and is engaged in important military operations in the East.

It has been raised by the additions readily voted by Parliament to the ordinary strength of the army, and partly by the withdrawal of troops from their usual stations in different parts of the United Kingdom, their place, when necessary, having been supplied by regiments of militia, embodied for that purpose.

Reinforcements, however, continue to be required, and, desirous of meeting these demands, Her Majesty's Government have turned their attention to the practicability of bringing home some of the regiments which are on service in the North American and other colonial possessions of the Crown. Fortunately, the character of the war renders this resource available without risk to the security of the colonies against external aggression. Her Majesty's Government fully recognize the duty and responsibility of affording to them protection against any such aggression, and the strength of the empire would be put forth in defence of any part of it which might be placed in jeopardy from such a cause. But the blockade of the great maritime outlets at the opposite extremities of Russia has intercepted her fleets, and disabled her from injuring the foreign possessions of the Crown, while the friendly relations subsisting between Her Majesty and all other foreign powers forbid the apprehension of attack from any other quarter.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, think it expedient that that portion of the army which is now in the colonies should contribute its quota to the forces actively employed in the present war.

I am informed by the Duke of Newcastle that he personally consulted with your Lordship during your recent residence in England on the proposed withdrawal of a portion of the troops from Canada, and that he had the benefit of your views respecting it.

It is his Grace's intention to send orders to General Rowan for the return to England of three regiments of infantry and three companies of artillery. Upon their withdrawal, the regular force in Canada will consist of the Royal Rifle regiment, one regiment of infantry, to be maintained at a strength of 850 men, and two companies of artillery, and will be distributed between the two fortified positions of most importance, namely, Kingston and Quebec, the Rifles being stationed at the former place.

(289.)

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