

Despatches.

CATHCART.

The Administrator of the Government transmits, for the information of the Legislative Assembly, Copies of the several Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, enumerated in the annexed Schedule.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
24th March, 1846.

SCHEDULE of Despatches accompanying the Message to the
Legislative Assembly of the 24th March, 1846.

NO.	DATE.	SUBJECT.
	1845	
356	15th March.....	Registration of Merchant Seamen, with Copy of a Letter from Captain Otway, R. N.
371	16th April.....	Acknowledging Copies of Congratulation to Lord Metcalfe on his elevation to the Peerage.
Military. 30	25th April.....	With Letter from the Treasury respecting Duties imposed in Canada on Articles imported for the use of Her Majesty's Troops.
424	30th August....	Sir Wm. Burnett's Preparation for Preservation of Timber from Fire.
455	6th Nov.....	Mr. Payne's ditto.
456	15th "	Desertion of Merchant Seamen—in reply to Memorial of Owners and Masters of Ships trading to Quebec.
457	15th "	Remarks on the Act of last Session incorporating the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway Company.
458	18th "	Harris' Divorce Bill will not be confirmed by Her Majesty.
1	30th Dec.....	Respecting Act of last Session to secure the Right of Property in British Plantation Vessels
1846 Circular.	15th January.	General Instructions relative to Colonial Railway Acts.
18	3d February.	Respecting the Customs Act of last Session.

(Copy.)

No. 356.

DOWNING STREET,
15th March, 1845.

My LORD,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship, for your consideration, the copy of a letter from Commander Otway, R. N., suggesting the Registration of Merchant Seamen in *Canada* and other Colonies. I find that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty entertain the opinion that this is not a subject which should be regulated by any Act of the Imperial Parliament, but that it should be left to the Government and Legislature of each Colony to take such measures as may appear to them necessary for effecting the Registration of Colonial Seamen.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) STANLEY.

The Right Honourable

The Lord METCALFE, G. C. B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

TORONTO,
9th January, 1845.

My LORD,

Having occupied some years (between 1826 and 1829) in drawing up a Scheme for the Registry of Seamen, with a view to the prevention of desertion from both the Military and Merchant Navies, and presented it when completed to the late Lord High Admiral (afterwards published for distribution among Members of Parliament and other Officials,) I cannot but feel interested in the working of the present scheme as established by Sir James Graham, many of the essential parts being very similar to those sug-

gested by me. It is therefore with unfeigned pleasure I learn that the Registry is no longer confined to *London* alone but extended to the Outports of the Kingdom. It may not however have occurred to Your Lordship, that to carry out the 9th Regulation, which imposes a penalty of £10 on Commanders of Merchant Vessels for every man they may ship as part of their crews, who may be deficient of a Registry Ticket, it will be requisite that the Registry be extended to such of our Colonies as are essentially nurseries for Seamen, in which position *Canada* stands conspicuous. Her numerous Fishing Vessels form the very cradles of infant essayists—her building Ports furnish stately Ships for the display of their matured proficiency—and the Commercial Traffic of her Merchants give employ to many thousands of first class Seamen both Native and European—among which mass of men, casualties must ever be occurring; but under the ban of £10 penalty, such casualties cannot be remedied by filling up vacancies occurring from death, sickness, &c., unless there be a Registry in *Canada*, for native Mariners, or such as can establish their adoption of the Colony as their home. The Registry, if adopted, should not extend to any other Seamen, or it will operate against the working of the system of British Certificates, and every holder of a *Canada* Certificate on arrival in *England*, should be required to exchange it for a British Ticket. By such a scheme native Mariners may be obtained from the Colony, otherwise, I imagine, there must be an especial exemption from penalty when absent from *Britain*.

Should the Treasury be induced to extend the Registry to *Canada*, I beg respectfully to solicit that Your Lordship would be pleased to nominate me as Registrar.

I have, &c.

(Signed,)

R. OTWAY,
Commander, R. N.

The Right Honourable

The Lord STANLEY,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

No. 371.

DOWNING STREET,
16th April, 1845.

My LORD,

I have received Your Lordship's Despatch No. 229, of the 17th March, enclosing copies of the Addresses of congratulation, which have been presented to you by both Branches of the Legislature of *Canada*, and by various Public Bodies in the Province, on your elevation to the Peerage.

It is extremely satisfactory to me to learn that so unequivocal and spontaneous a manifestation of feeling has been called forth by the late distinguished mark of the Queen's approval of Your Public Services.

I have, &c.

(Signed,)

STANLEY.

The Right Honourable

Lord METCALFE,
&c. &c. &c.

(Copy.)

MILITARY,

No. 30.

DOWNING STREET,
25th April, 1845.

My LORD,

With reference to the correspondence which has passed relating to duties imposed on Supplies imported into *Canada* for the use of Her Majesty's Troops, I now transmit to Your Lordship copies of

Despatches.