

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Affairs
of BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

From Lord Glenelg.

— No. 1. —

(No. 28.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieutenant-general
Sir John Colborne, G.C.B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 19 February 1838.

No. 1.

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit to you an Act of Parliament which received the Royal Assent on the 10th instant, intituled, "An Act to make temporary Provision for the Government of Lower Canada."

Lord Glenelg to
Sir J. Colborne,
19 February 1838.

In pursuance of the 7th section of this statute, you will cause the Act to be publicly proclaimed in the province on an early day after it reaches your hands.

In exercise of the powers vested in The Queen by the second section of the Act, Her Majesty, with the advice of Her Privy Council, has been pleased, by instructions under Her Majesty's signet and sign manual, which I herewith transmit to you, to constitute a Special Council for the affairs of Lower Canada, and for this purpose to authorize the Governor of the province to appoint any number of special councillors, not less than five, subject to the condition that they should all be natural born or naturalized subjects of the Crown, of approved loyalty, and that no person should be so appointed under the age of twenty-one years.

The eighth section declares, that for the purposes of this Act, any person authorized to execute the commission of Governor of Lower Canada, shall be taken to be the Governor thereof; and as some legislative enactments will be required within the province in the interval which will elapse between the proclamation of this Act and the arrival of the Earl of Durham, it will devolve on you in the first instance to carry these instructions into effect, so far as it may be necessary to do so, during your provisional administration of the government. You will therefore at once appoint a Special Council in pursuance of Her Majesty's instructions, carefully selecting for this office individuals in whom public confidence can be placed.

Various Acts of the provincial legislature of great importance to the interests of the inhabitants will, if not renewed, expire on the 1st day of May next. A list of these Acts is contained in Lord Gosford's despatch of 9th November 1836. You will propose to the council the continuance for a limited time of such of these Acts as ought not to be allowed to expire.

With regard to the persons who have been apprehended for political offences and are now in confinement, Her Majesty's Government desire that such of them as you may not think it right at once to liberate should not be brought to trial, unless they can be tried by the ordinary tribunals of the country. In case, therefore, a reference to the ordinary tribunals should not, in your judgment, be yet advisable, a law ought to be passed for the suspension of the