

PRINCE
EDWARD'S
ISLAND.

yourself and certain individuals in Charlottetown, who are desirous of enrolling themselves as volunteers.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion, that the desire evinced by the individuals in question to be trained to the use of arms, is highly praiseworthy, and consequently deserving of encouragement.

I have accordingly instructed the Master-General and Board of Ordnance to provide rifles and accoutrements for one company of volunteers. But it must be clearly understood, that Her Majesty's Government do not feel themselves called upon, for the present, to make over these arms to the colony. The arms are lent to the colony, upon the understanding that a proper use will be made of them; that some person will be appointed to take care of them, when they are not in the hands of the volunteers; and that the colony will be responsible to Her Majesty's Government for those arms.

I have felt the less hesitation in sending these arms to Prince Edward's Island, as Her Majesty's Government are deeply impressed with the necessity of withdrawing all regular troops from the colony, at an early period.

The numerous desertions which are constantly occurring from the troops stationed in the island, not necessarily with the connivance of the inhabitants, constitute, as you are aware, a very heavy expense to this country; while the circumstance of the troops being unavoidably detached from the garrison of Halifax, is another source of additional outlay. The time has, therefore, arrived when the inhabitants of Prince Edward Island should themselves provide, I will not say, for their protection,—for their security is not exposed to any immediate danger,—but for the common duties which the troops have to perform, and which may very well be discharged by a few constables.

I do not propose, however, to give orders for withdrawing the troops, until I shall have heard from you at what period it will be perfectly convenient that arrangements should be made for that purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN S. PAKINGTON.

No. 15.

No. 15.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE to Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN.

No. 1.

SIR,

Downing Street, 29th January 1853.

REFERRING to Sir John Pakington's Despatch of the 2nd of July last, in which an intimation was conveyed to you of the necessity which has arisen, for imposing upon the colony under your government the duty of making provision for the performance of the duties now discharged by the small detachment of regular troops stationed there, I now feel it my duty to remind you that the answer which you have promised to that despatch has not been received.

I am not without hopes, that it may be found practicable to send a company of enrolled pensioners to Prince Edward's Island; but my present impression is, that under any circumstances, the troops must be withdrawn at a very early period.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE to Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN.

No. 2.

SIR,

Downing Street, 22nd April 1853.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, marked "separate and confidential," of the 11th March, with the addresses therein adverted to, to