

but for the interposition of this Cavalry the facility of desertion to troops in Montreal and the Richelieu Peninsula would be so great that there can be no doubt of its rapid increase, the southern border being so near, and the temptation in the United States being always in activity. It would be needless to dwell upon the advantage derived to the service of the army from such a check upon desertion which is unhappily so frequent in North America.

There is yet another good and cogent reason for continuing these Troops of Cavalry embodied, which is that each of them would in case of emergency become the nucleus upon which to form and organize a larger body, and so popular is this service in them that volunteers might always be had in any numbers, and the three Troops might become three Regiments in a very short time. Meanwhile they are a *trusty body* upon which, *together or individually, implicit confidence* may be placed in all circumstances. In proof of which, if *any* were *necessary*, may be adduced the fact; that in the month of January last the Troops of Captains Jones and Ermatinger, whose services there were reason to believe would be required at Montreal, "made in very perfect order several painful marches in the most inclement weather, crossed the St. Lawrence on the ice, effecting a very perilous passage with a perseverance and resolution which did them great honor, and were in timely readiness at their appointed stations." To which it may be added that several (about 40) were severely frost bitten on this duty. Taking it for granted that it must be the intention of Her Majesty's Government to afford due military protection to the Colony, and especially where it involves no increase to the Regular Forces actually serving in it, and when, moreover, it can be combined, as in this instance, with undoubted advantage to the interest of those forces, it is hoped that the above observations may hold forth sufficient grounds to warrant His Excellency the Governor General, in submitting to the Secretary of State a strong objection to the course of discontinuing the maintenance of the three troops of Provincial Cavalry, in Lower Canada.

The Commander of the Forces throws himself upon the indulgence of His Excellency, the Governor General, for the *length and earnestness* with which he has discussed the subject under consideration, arising from the *deep interest* which he feels in it as one of *essential consequence*, alike to the interest of the Colony and of Her Majesty's service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

J. A. VESFY KIRKLAND, M. S.

Colonel the Hon. R. Bruce,)
Military Secretary. }