

(No. 15.)

No. 3.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of NORMANBY to Lieutenant-General Sir JOHN COLBORNE, G.C.B.

SIR,

Downing-street, 22d March, 1839.

No. 3.
Marquis of Normanby
to Sir John Colborne.
March 22, 1839.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, the copy of a petition to the House of Commons from Messrs. Lafontaine and Mondelet, complaining of their arrest and imprisonment at Montreal in the month of November last. This petition was ordered by the House to be printed, but did not give rise to any discussion. Should you desire to offer any explanation respecting the statements contained in it, I shall of course be happy to receive them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NORMANBY.

Sir John Colborne, G.C.B.

&c. &c. &c.

(No. 17.)

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Marquis of NORMANBY to Lieutenant-General Sir JOHN COLBORNE, G.C.B.

SIR,

Downing-street, March 27th, 1839.

No. 4.
Marquis of Normanby
to Sir John Colborne.
27th March, 1839.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of the 19th February, No. 29, enclosing the proceedings of three courts-martial held on persons concerned in the late rebellion, and reporting that after the most ample and deliberate consideration you had authorized the execution of the sentence of death in the case of five of these persons.

I have to convey to you my approbation of the course which you adopted in this matter. I have also to express the high satisfaction with which my colleagues and myself have learned that in your opinion it will not be necessary for the public safety to carry into effect any further sentences of death in cases of high treason.

It is, I am convinced, no less gratifying to yourself than to Her Majesty's Government to be able to dispense with a mode of punishment which can never be resorted to without reluctance, and I feel confident that the lenity shown towards the great mass of the persons arrested for participation in the rebellion will have a beneficial effect in attaching the lower classes of the French Canadians to the Government of the country, and in disabusing their minds of the false opinions which had been inculcated by designing and ill-affected persons.

With respect to those persons who are now or may shortly be under sentence of transportation in Upper and Lower Canada, my predecessor's Despatch of the 18th January will have apprised you that Her Majesty's Government intended to take measures for their removal from Canada directly to the place of their destination. I have now to inform you that the necessary orders have been issued to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send to the St. Lawrence, as early as possible, a vessel capable of conveying not less than 200 convicts from Canada to Australia. This vessel will therefore be able to carry to their destination the persons sentenced to transportation in the Upper Province, as well as in Lower Canada.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NORMANBY.

Sir John Colborne, G.C.B.,

&c. &c. &c.