

Correspondence respecting the Island of San Juan.

No. 1.

Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell.—(Received June 23.)

(Extract.)

Washington, June 7, 1860.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a letter and its inclosure which have been received by the Commanding Officer of the Royal Marines on the Island of San Juan from Captain Pickett, who has been ordered by General Harney to relieve Captain Hunt, the officer placed in command of the United States' detachment on that island by General Scott.

Your Lordship will perceive that the orders given by General Harney to Captain Pickett, and communicated, by the General's direction, to the officer in command of the British detachment, are, in many points, inconsistent with the arrangement made by General Scott and accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

Your Lordship will not fail to observe, in particular, that General Harney directs Captain Pickett to recognize the Civil jurisdiction of Washington territory over San Juan, and that the General goes on to state that he "is satisfied that any attempt of the British Commander to ignore the rights of the territory will be followed by deplorable results out of his power to control."

The copy of these orders reached me yesterday, in a letter from Rear-Admiral Baynes. I immediately transmitted a copy to the United States' Secretary of State, with a note begging that the United States' Government would not lose a moment in taking measures to avert the deplorable consequences which would, indeed, be only too likely to follow any disturbance of the settlement so wisely effected by General Scott. Of that note I do myself the honour to inclose a copy.

I have been in personal communication with General Cass on the subject to-day. He says that he shall send me, as soon as it can be prepared, a written answer, which will be completely satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government. In the meantime, he authorizes me to inform your Lordship that the United States' Government regret and disavow General Harney's order.

I have urged the Government of the United States to send instantly, and in the most expeditious manner, the orders necessary to avert the evils which General Harney's reckless conduct has again rendered imminent. I shall, on my part, make every effort to ensure the Admiral's receiving, as soon as possible, the intelligence of the disavowal by this Government of General Harney's proceedings.
