

COMMUNICATIONS between the COLONIAL OFFICE and the
Governors of UPPER and LOWER CANADA on the Subject of
the CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

No. 1.

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COPY of the Earl of Dalhousie's Despatch to Mr. Secretary Huskisson.

SIR,

Castle of Saint Lewis, Quebec, 29th Jan. 1828.

AS the exaggerated and false representations which are circulated in this province, in newspapers opposed to Government, respecting the demission of various officers of militia, may be repeated in the public prints in England, and reach His Majesty's Government, I think it advisable to make you acquainted with the real state of the case.

The temporary laws for regulating the militia, which had been in force for many years, and had been from time to time continued for short periods, expired on first of May last, in consequence of the bill for prolonging their duration having fallen through in the Assembly, after being amended by the Legislative Council, who wished to alter the system. One of these temporary Acts had *repealed* two useful permanent militia laws, passed in 1787 and 1789; and the question arose, whether, on the expiration of the temporary repealing statute, the permanent laws came into operation. His Majesty's attorney general reported his opinion that they did, and I acted on that opinion, as it was my duty to do: but as some doubt attended the question, the party opposed to Government took the opportunity to attack its conduct in this respect with violence; and the consequence was, that several officers of militia, either believing or affecting to believe that there was no militia law in force, refused to attend the summer musters, or otherwise exhibited a spirit of disobedience to orders; and these persons have been dismissed wherever the circumstances of their conduct or situation were such as to make an example necessary.

The inclosed general orders, which I have issued during the last season, will show, however, that the conduct of the militia has almost universally been such as to merit and receive my warmest approbation.

In some few instances, I have thought it my duty to notify the dismissal of particular officers, who had abused the influence they derived from their rank, to support their violent opposition to Government, in a manner that outraged the proper and decent respect due, even in opposition, to the constituted authorities of the State.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed)

DALHOUSIE.

GENERAL ORDER OF MILITIA.

Office of Adjutant General of Militia, Quebec, 12th Sept. 1827.

His Excellency the Governor and Commander in Chief takes an early opportunity to express to the battalions of militia in Lower Canada his sentiments on certain recent proceedings which nearly concern their loyalty and honour.

It is well known that the laws under which the militia force has been regulated for many years have been enacted for short periods, and have been repeatedly renewed as a substitute for the permanent laws passed in 1787 and 1789.

These temporary Acts, however, not having been renewed in the last session of the Provincial Parliament, expired on the 1st of May, and it was immediately notified to the militia, by his Excellency's directions, that under existing circumstances the old permanent ordinances came into force.

Evil-disposed persons were not wanting to spread doubts upon the subject; and to these were added gross misrepresentations and calumnies regarding the