

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., to
Governor Sir EDMUND HEAD.

(No. 79.)

SIR,

Downing Street, 2nd May 1856.

You are aware that the Treaty of Peace provides for the prompt evacuation by Her Majesty's forces of the foreign territories at present held by them, and that among other arrangements for the distribution of the army on its return from active service, orders have been given that five regiments shall be selected to be stationed in British North America, of which three are allotted to Canada.

2. Such an amount of force is not of a character to afford much room for misconception as to the purpose of Her Majesty's Government; but still I think it better to address to you a few remarks in explanation of that purpose.

3. Earl Grey's despatch to Lord Elgin of the 14th March 1851, laid down the principles which were then adopted by Her Majesty's Government in regard to their colonial policy, considered in a military point of view; and in reserving to the mother country the duty of maintaining garrisons for fortresses of chief importance, such as Quebec, invited the co-operation of the province for the auxiliary measures of defence. The vigour with which at this moment a militia force is being organized, justifies our continuing to place, as we do place, the fullest reliance on this policy.

4. It is not of course to be expected that the force of the garrisons alluded to should be at all times of an unvarying strength. It may vary occasionally from military or political reasons. During the war just ended, when the chief military strength of the empire had to be concentrated for the operations in the East, regiments stationed in Canada were withdrawn; and, as my predecessor, Sir George Grey, explained in a despatch dated 11th August 1854, increased responsibility was thrown upon the province.

That emergency has now happily passed away; but although the regular soldiers in Canada may be more or fewer at any particular time, the policy of Her Majesty's Government continues the same, and they desire to place their main dependence on the well-proved loyalty and courage of Her Majesty's Canadian subjects to repel any hostile aggression, should the occasion ever unfortunately occur, although in that event Her Majesty's Government would not fail to give to the province the full support of the whole power of the British empire.

5. You will take care that no misapprehension on this subject shall exist in Canada which might produce any relaxation of the honourable exertions which the province is now making to establish a suitable military organization. I have had the greatest satisfaction in submitting to Her Majesty the accounts which you have transmitted to me of the spirit and energy with which all classes of her Canadian subjects have come forward to carry into effect the provisions of the new Militia Act, and I trust that the result will be that this local force will speedily be placed on a footing of permanent efficiency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. LABOUCHERE.

DESPATCHES TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF
NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of DESPATCH from his Grace the Duke of NEWCASTLE to Lieut.-
Governor Sir J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

(No. 2.)

SIR,

Downing Street, 19th April 1854.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 18, of the 30th ultimo, with the addresses to the Queen therein enclosed from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly for Nova Scotia, expressive of their readiness

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