

LETTERS PATENT under the Great Seal appointing JAMES DOUGLAS, Esquire, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of BRITISH COLUMBIA and its Dependencies.

BRITISH
COLUMBIA.

Letters Patent, dated 2d September 1858.

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, to Our trusty and well-beloved James Douglas, Esquire, greeting:

I. WHEREAS We deem it expedient, in pursuance of an Act passed in the twenty-second year of Our reign, intituled "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," to make more particular provision for the Government of Our said Colony: Now know you, that We, reposing especial trust and confidence in the prudence, courage, and loyalty of you, the said James Douglas, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have thought fit to constitute and appoint you, the said James Douglas, to be, during Our will and pleasure, Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Our Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies, and in and over all forts and garrisons erected and established, or to be erected and established, in Our said Colony of British Columbia, comprising all such territories as are bounded to the south by the frontier of the United States of America, to the east, by the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, to the north, by Simpson's River and the Finlay Branch of the Peace River, and to the west, by the Pacific Ocean, including Queen Charlotte Island and all other islands adjacent to the said territories, excepting from the said islands Our Island of Vancouver, until the said island shall, in pursuance of the said Act, be hereafter incorporated into Our said Colony.

II. And We do hereby require and command you to do and execute all things in due manner that shall belong unto your said command and the trust We have reposed in you, according to the several powers and authorities granted or appointed you by this Our present Commission and the Instructions herewith given you, or according to such further powers, directions, and authorities as shall at any time hereafter be granted or appointed you, under Our Sign Manual and Signet, or by Our Order in Our Privy Council, or by Us, through one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and according to such reasonable laws as are now or shall hereafter be in force in Our said Colony.

III. And whereas it has been appointed by Parliament that it shall be lawful for Us, by any Order or Orders to be by Us from time to time made, with the advice of Our Privy Council, to make, ordain, and establish, and, subject to such conditions and restrictions as to Us shall seem meet, to authorize and empower such officer as We may appoint to administer the Government of Our said Colony, to make provision for the administration of justice therein, and generally to make, ordain, and establish all such laws, institutions, and ordinances as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of Our subjects and others residing therein; and whereas We have, in pursuance of the said Act, by Our Order made by Us in Our Privy Council, bearing date this 2d instant, ordered, authorized, empowered, and commanded Our Governor of Our said Colony to make provision for the administration of justice in Our said Colony, and generally to make, ordain, and establish all such laws, institutions, and ordinances as may be necessary for the peace, order, and good government of Our subjects and others residing therein, wherein the said Governor is to conform to and exercise the directions, powers, and authorities given and granted to him by Our Commission, subject to all such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed in and by Our Instructions under Our Signet and Sign Manual accompanying Our said Commission, or by any future Instructions, as aforesaid: Now We do, by this Our Commission, give and grant to you, the said James Douglas, full power and authority to constitute and appoint Judges, and, in cases requisite, Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer, Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, and other necessary Officers and Ministers in Our said Colony and its Dependencies, for the due and impartial administration of justice and putting the laws into execution, and to administer or cause to be administered unto them such oath or oaths as are usually given for the due execution and performance of offices and places, and for the clearing of truth in judicial matters.

IV. And We do by these presents further give and grant unto you, the said James Douglas, full power and authority, by Proclamation or Proclamations to be by you from