

CANADA.

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 13 August 1838;—for,

COPIES of an ORDINANCE passed by the GOVERNOR and SPECIAL COUNCIL of Lower Canada, intituled, "An Ordinance to provide for the Security of the Province of Lower Canada;" and, of a PROCLAMATION issued by the Governor of Lower Canada on the 28th June last.

Colonial Department, Downing-street, }
14 August 1838.

G. GREY.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of *Durham* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 29 June 1838.

THE first step which I took on my arrival was to examine most carefully the list of prisoners and the depositions affecting each: in so doing, I discovered that against only eight or nine there existed any evidence which would warrant the application of great severity, the chief leaders and instigators of the revolt having fled from the province and being in safety in the United States. I next applied myself, by answers to addresses and private applications, to the discouragement of any notion of the possibility of a general amnesty, and announced that my determination was to punish the guilty and to extend mercy to the misguided; for which purpose I issued a special commission for the trial of the prisoners, and sent the Attorney-general with it to Montreal. These measures produced the salutary consequences which I expected, and, joined to other means through which they became convinced that I would not suffer the guilty to escape, induced the ringleaders to plead guilty, and throw themselves on the mercy of the Crown.

Yesterday I summoned a special council, a list of the members of which I enclose your Lordship, and passed an ordinance by which the prisoners who pleaded guilty are transported from the continent of America during Her Majesty's pleasure. M. Papineau and his associates, who fled from justice, are prevented from re-entering the province, and the remainder are enlarged on giving security for their good conduct. I also issued a proclamation in Her Majesty's name, which announces the latter act of grace at the same time with the ordinance which inflicts the punishment.

These measures have met with the entire approbation of Sir John Colborne and of the heads of what is called the British party: they declared they did not require any sanguinary punishment, but they desired security for the future, and the certainty that the returning tranquillity of the province should not be arrested by the machinations of these ringleaders of the rebellion, either here or in the United States. This I have effected for them to their contentment. I did not think it right to transport these persons to a convict colony, for two reasons: first, because it was affixing a character of moral infamy on their acts which public opinion would not sanction; and, secondly, because I hold that it would