

to reside upon his property during a period of three years ; to erect a dwelling-house, and to clear and cultivate four acres of land ; these conditions were complained of as burthensome ; and in 1837, Lord Gosford issued a proclamation, since confirmed by instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, stating that the claims of the officers and men who served in the embodied militia during the last American war, had been brought under the notice of Government, and that such of the officers and men as had lodged their claims previous to the 1st of August 1830, should obtain land free from all conditions, except of performing the public and joint labour required by the law of the Province. By the same proclamation a board was constituted, to whom all claims were to be referred.

The claimants before that board have been of three classes ; 1st. those who had served in the six battalions previously to 1830 ; 2d. those who had belonged to other corps, and who, according to the rule laid down by Lord Dalhousie, had no title under the original proclamation, but who had lodged their claims before 1830 ; and, 3d. those of whatever class who had not made their claims before that period. The number of individuals of the first class amounts to 2,195 ; of the second class, to 2,598 ; and of the third, to 1,669.

Upon the claims of the first class no question can arise ; according both to the spirit and letter of the proclamation of Lord Gosford, they must be admitted. As little doubt can arise as to the third class, who are expressly excluded by the same proclamation ; but there appears to be some difficulty with regard to the second class, arising partly from the ambiguous language of the proclamation of Lord Dalhousie, and partly from the fact that some few individuals belonging to that class have actually been admitted to the benefit of the proclamation. The conduct of Lord Dalhousie himself is explicit as to the meaning that he attached to his own proclamation ; and it may be inferred from the sum granted by the Assembly for the purpose of surveying, that they did not contemplate these cases, which, if admitted, would have doubled the amount of land required as included in the proclamation, since they would in that event have hardly granted a sum so entirely inadequate to the purpose. It is, however, stated that there were one or two corps who were incorporated in the same manner, and performed the same services as the six battalions. If this is the case, individuals belonging to these corps, as their services were equal, would seem to be entitled to similar reward ; and the terms of the