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LOWER CANADA, &c.

COPIES OR EXTRACTS
OF
CORRESPONDENCE
RELATIVE TO THE
AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA.

(LOWER CANADA. UPPER CANADA.
NOVA SCOTIA. NEW BRUNSWICK.)

(Presented by Her Majesty's Command.)

*(In continuation of Paper presented to Parliament on the
23d December 1837, No. 72.)*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
16 January 1838.*

So.

Treasury 2153

LOWER CANADA, &c.

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SCHEDULE.

LOWER CANADA :

- No. 52.—Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, K.C.B., to the Major-general Lord Fitzroy Somerset, K.C.B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 29 November 1837; (three Enclosures) - - - - - p. 3
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- No. 54.—Extract of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 30 November 1837; (eight Enclosures) - - - - - p. 7
- No. 55.—Copy of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 6 December 1837; (four Enclosures) - - - - - p. 14
- No. 56.—Extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, K.C.B., to the Major-general Lord Fitzroy Somerset, K.C.B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 3 December 1837 - - - - - p. 18
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UPPER CANADA :

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- No. 60.—Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-governor Sir F. B. Head, Bart., to Lord Glenelg, dated Toronto, 3 November 1837; (one Enclosure) - - - - - p. 21
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COPIES or EXTRACTS of CORRESPONDENCE relative to the AFFAIRS of
LOWER CANADA, &c.

LOWER CANADA.

—No. 52.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-general Sir *John Colborne*, K. C. B., to the Major-general Lord *Fitzroy Somerset*, K. C. B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 29 November 1837.

LOWER
CANADA.

No. 52.

Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
29 November 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, that, since my Despatch of the 20th instant, the revolt has been rapidly extending, and that the law officers of the Crown and the magistrates of Montreal having applied to me for military force to assist the civil power in apprehending Mr. Papineau, and other traitors, who were supposed to be at the villages of Saint Denis and Saint Charles, I ordered strong detachments to support the civil authorities in the execution of their duty.

Saint Denis is seven miles to the northward of Saint Charles, on the right bank of the river Richelieu; the former 16 miles from Sorel, the latter about 17 from the ferry of Chambly, opposite Pointe Oliviere:

Colonel Gore and Lieutenant-colonel Hughes, with five companies and a howitzer, were ordered to proceed from Sorel to Saint Denis; and five companies and two guns to move from Chambly on Saint Charles, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, of the Royal regiment, accompanied by two magistrates, to execute the warrants against those individuals charged with high treason; and it appeared probable that the sudden appearance of the troops at these points, and entering the villages nearly at the same time, would afford an opportunity of taking into custody the leaders of the revolt.

The Sorel detachment, under the superintendence of Colonel Gore, marched at 10 o'clock on the night of the 22d, by a back concession road, to avoid the village of Saint Ours, occupied by the rebels, which increased the distance of the march.

The incessant rain, and almost impassable roads, so impeded the progress of the detachment, that he did not reach Saint Denis until half-past nine on the morning of the 23d; the rebels, on the approach of Her Majesty's troops, commenced a heavy fire on them from all the houses on the north side of the village; some of these were immediately taken by the light company of the 32d regiment, commanded by Captain Markham, but the fire from the howitzer having made little impression for several hours on a large stone building, strongly occupied, and the whole of the companies of the detachment being much exhausted, from the very long and difficult march of the previous night, Colonel Gore considered it necessary to return to Sorel.

Colonel Wetherall, with four companies of the Royal regiment, and a detachment of the 66th regiment, and two six-pounders, passed the Richelieu by the upper ferry at Chambly; the bad state of the roads, however, impeded his march, and prevented him proceeding further than Saint Hilaire, at which place he halted till another company of the Royals joined him; he then advanced on Saint Charles, attacked the rebels, carried an enclosed work defended by 1,500 men, and completely dispersed them.

The advanced period of the season, and the constant expectation of the navigation becoming impracticable, the passage of the river being interrupted; it became necessary to use the utmost exertion, with a view of restoring order in the revolted district.

The troops which have been called to act in the disturbed districts, and to put down this sudden and extensively combined revolt, have had to contend with great difficulties; their communications with head quarters having been completely interrupted by the armed peasantry assembled on the line of march!

Many of the deluded inhabitants are returning to their homes, and I trust that

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No. 52.

Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
29 November 1837.

that the affairs which have taken place may be the means of quickly restoring tranquillity in the country.

I am much indebted to Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, for his active zeal and judicious conduct on many occasions in which he has been employed at this critical period.

I forward the reports of Colonel Gore and Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, which will afford the General Commanding in Chief full information of the proceedings of the detachments under their command, and returns of killed and wounded.

Captain Markham, an intelligent and zealous officer, has received several severe wounds.

I cannot close my Despatch without mentioning the exertions of Captain David and the Montreal Volunteer Corps of Cavalry, who accompanied the troops on the service in which they have been engaged.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Colborne*, Lieut-gen.

Enclosure 1, in No. 52.

Sir,

Montreal, Nov. 25, 1837.

Encl. 1, in No. 52.

In obedience to your commands, I left this garrison with the flank companies of the 24th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Hughes, the light company of the 32d regiment, commanded by Captain Markham, one howitzer twelve-pounder, under Lieutenant Newcomen, Royal Artillery, and a party of the Montreal cavalry, under Cornet Sweeney, on board the *St. George* steamer, at three o'clock p.m. on the 22d instant, on route to Sorel, where I disembarked at six o'clock, and placed the men in the Barrack-square; I directed Captain Crompton to be prepared to march at 10 o'clock, when, according to my instructions, I proceeded on the road to St. Denis, on the river Richelieu, which I was directed to carry, and then move on rapidly to assist Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, of the Royal regiment, in his attack on St. Charles.

The roads being deep, the march was severe (although the distance was only 18 miles), it having rained violently all night, the mud and water reaching to the knees; I did not reach the small but rapid river which crosses the road four miles and a half from St. Denis, until some time after daylight; in order to arrive at my destination with as little delay as possible, I took the back road, to avoid the village of St. Ours and pass the small river by a bridge, higher up than the one by the main road, also for the purpose to take on an intelligent guide, who had volunteered to lead.

After passing ^{the} bridge, I observed an armed party leaving the lower one, who had been sent to oppose our crossing, and who flanked our line of march, but I did not waste time in dispersing them, but moved on to my point, which was now frequently impeded by the breaking up of the bridges. Several, however, were saved by Cornet Sweeney's detachment of cavalry, who took two armed peasants, but could gain no positive information as to the intentions of the rebels. On approaching St. Denis, a strong body of armed men, moving along a wood, skirted my left flank; all the houses along the road were deserted, and on nearing St. Denis, I was attacked by skirmishers occupying the houses and barns on the road and along the banks of the river Richelieu; these were rapidly driven in by Captain Markham to the main entrance. I found the place was strongly occupied, and the entrance defended by a large fortified stone house, and a barricado crossing the road, and flanked from a building and houses, from which a severe fire was commenced. I immediately reinforced the advance with Captains Crompton's, Maitland's and Harris's companies, and placing the howitzer in a position off the right of the road, at a range of 350 yards, directed Lieutenant Newcomen to fire round shot into it, and batter it down, if possible; on examining the house, I found it too well secured and flanked, and the incessant firing showed it to be well occupied. The armed force of the rebels, from what I can ascertain, was full 1,500 men, but report said nearer 3,000. During these operations the rebels were crossing the Richelieu in large bateaux, from St. Antoine, but I could not spare shot from the fortified house to obstruct their passage; Captain Markham got possession of a house immediately opposite to the fortified house, driving out the occupants at the point of the bayonet, but was almost immediately wounded in three places. The day was now advancing; it was evident that the whole country was in arms, and no important effect was made on the fortified house, and 60 round shot expended, and only six left; and the ground we occupied could hardly have been maintained during the night; it was necessary to come to some decision, either to assault the house so well defended, and flanked by others loop-holed, or to fall back before the bridge in my rear could be broken down. The hazard of a failure under such circumstances, and the jaded condition of the men, frost having succeeded the rain and snow, and their clothes freezing on them, determined me to fall back; and having collected the wounded and placed them in such carts as we had, and the howitzer in the centre, I directed Lieutenant-colonel Hughes to take the direction of the rear-guard, and fell back. I was immediately followed by strong bodies of the rebels in rear and on my right flank, who were checked by the rear-guard, and having observed that a strong force had been detached in the direction of the upper bridge, by which I had passed in the morning, on arriving where the road branched off to the two bridges, I turned to my left

Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
29 November 1837

Encl. 1, in No. 52.

to the lower bridge, having ascertained that St. Ours was not fortified, and rid myself of the rebels, who were skirting my right flank. On crossing the bridge, the artillery horses gave up altogether, and two of them fell; the infantry went immediately to the gun, and every exertion was made to get it on; the officers' horses and those of the ammunition waggons were put to the gun, but without effect; the wheels clogged with mud were now frozen, and after seven hours' severe toil, and during which Lieutenant-colonel Hughes never left the gun, the medical officer declared that half an hour more would freeze the men. The gun was spiked and abandoned. I then moved to St. Ours, where I was in hopes of finding the steam-boat, Varennes, ordered to meet us with provisions, but she had been attacked by 200 armed persons, and forced to cut her cable and return.

I passed through the village, and halted at some farm-houses, a mile on, to refresh the men, and proceeded in the morning, at daylight, to Sorel, where I arrived at 11 o'clock in the morning of the 24th. My loss in killed and wounded, by the accompanying returns, is one officer severely wounded (Captain Markham), and 19 killed and wounded, and four missing; the loss of the rebels must have been about 100, which has since been confirmed. I have not yet received a correct return of the two companies of the 66th regiment, but I do not think they lost more than one or two. I enclose a detailed report from Lieutenant Newcomen on the loss of the howitzer, who deserves much praise for his conduct.

In this arduous march, and during the whole of the operation, the officers and men displayed the highest courage and steadiness, although exposed to extreme suffering.

I was much indebted to Lieut.-colonel Hughes, of the 24th regiment, for the advice and assistance I received from him, and his exertions to extricate the gun; and also to Lieut. Lysons, of the Royal regiment attached to the Quartermaster-general's department, for his zealous and active conduct; in Captain Markham, of the 32d regiment, who led the advance with great judgment, and was severely wounded, the service will be deprived for some time of a most valuable officer; Surgeon Farndon, of the Royal regiment, and Assistant-surgeon MacGrigor, of the 32d regiment, rendered every assistance in their power, and made the best arrangements for the wounded.

I have, &c.

Lieut.-general Sir John Colborne,
K.C.B. and G.C.H., &c. &c. &c.

(signed) Charles Gore, Col.

RETURN of Killed, Wounded and Missing.

Killed - - - 24th regiment; 1 serjeant, 2 rank and file.
32d regiment; 2 rank and file.
66th regiment; 1 rank and file.

Wounded - - 24th regiment, 2 rank and file, severely; 2 rank and file, slightly.
32d regiment, Captain Markham, severely, but not dangerously; 3 rank
and file, severely; 2 rank and file, slightly.

Missing - - - 24th regiment, 1 rank and file.
32d regiment, 4 rank and file (1 wounded).

TOTAL - - Killed, 1 serjeant, 5 rank and file.
Wounded, 1 captain, 9 rank and file.
Missing, 6 rank and file.

Enclosure 2, in No. 52.

Sir,

St. Charles, 27 November 1837.

I HAD the honour, yesterday, to report the successful result of my attack on the stockaded post of the rebels at this place. Encl. 2, in No. 52.

In my letter of the 25th November, I stated the circumstances which induced me to suspend my march towards St. Charles, and to order a company from Chambly to my support, and I then said that I should wait at St. Hilaire for his Excellency's further orders: this despatch was sent by Dr. Jones, of the Montreal cavalry, and I hoped for his Excellency's answer during the following night. Not having received it, at nine yesterday morning, I concluded that my messenger had been interrupted, and having learned that the basin, at Chambly, was frozen over, and every probability of a retreat being cut off, should such an event occur, I resolved on the attack.

The march was accomplished without opposition or hindrance, except from the breaking down of the bridges, &c. &c., until I arrived one mile from this place, when the troops were fired at from the left, or opposite bank of the Richelieu, and a man of the Royal regiment wounded; several rifle shots were also fired from a barn immediately in our front. I burnt the barn.

On arriving at 250 yards from the rebel works, I took up a position, hoping that a display of my force would induce some defection among these infatuated people; they, however, opened a heavy fire, which was returned. I then advanced to another position, 100 yards from the works, but, finding the defenders obstinate, I stormed and carried them, burning every building within the stockade, except that of the Honourable Mr. Debartsch, which, however, is much injured. The affair occupied about one hour. The slaughter on the side of the rebels was great; only sixteen prisoners were then made. I have counted 56 bodies, and many more were killed in the buildings and their bodies burnt.

I shall occupy this village until the receipt of his Excellency's orders.

So.

A 3

My

No. 52.

Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
29 November 1837.

Encl. 2. in No. 52.

My killed and wounded are as follows :

The Royal regiment, 1 serjeant, 1 rank and file, killed ; 8 rank and file severely wounded
7 rank and file slightly wounded.

66th regiment, 1 rank and file killed ; 2 rank and file severely wounded ; 1 rank and
file slightly wounded.

TOTAL.—1 serjeant, 2 rank and file, killed ; 10 rank and file severely wounded ; 8 rank
and file slightly wounded.

Every man and officer behaved nobly yesterday. Major Warde carried the right of the
position in good style, and Captain Glasgow's artillery did good execution ; he is a most
zealous officer. Captain David's troop of Montreal cavalry rendered essential service during
the march, and I regret that more are not attached to my force.

My horse was shot under me, and the chargers of Major Warde and Captain David
severely wounded—since dead.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. W. Wetherall,*
Comd 2d Batt. the Royal Regt.

The Deputy Adjt-general, &c. &c. &c.
Montreal.

Enclosure 3, in No. 52.

Sir,

Chambly, 28 November 1837.

Encl. 3, in No. 52.

I HAVE the honour to report my return to Chambly this evening, with the troops under
my command.

Having received authentic information, at St. Charles, on Sunday night, that a considerable
body of the rebels had assembled near Point Oliviere, under Saniere, for the purpose of
cutting off my retreat from St. Charles, I resolved upon attacking them in preference to
marching on St. Denis ; my march was so delayed by the difficulty of procuring conveyance
for the wounded men, that it was too late to proceed when I arrived at St. Hilaire.

This morning I continued my march, leaving the sick and wounded at St. Hilaire, in the
house of Colonel de Rouville, and a guard of one serjeant and 15 men, in charge of Dr. Sewell,
of the Montreal cavalry, where I propose that they shall remain until the ice on the river
will admit of their being transported in sleighs.

About a mile from St. Oliviere, the rebels were discovered in a position well adapted to
check my progress ; they had protected themselves with an abattis, and two contemptible
guns mounted on carts ; they fled as soon as I formed to attack, relinquishing their guns,
which are in my possession ; a few shots were exchanged, by which two men of the rebels
were killed. I burnt a house from which they fired on their retreat. With the exception of
a few straggling shot from the opposite side of the Richelieu, I reached this station without
further opposition.

I have brought in 25 prisoners, and propose marching with them to Montreal, *via* St. John's
and the Railway, the day after to-morrow, should I not receive counter orders.

The party assembled at St. Denis have broken up since the affair of St. Charles.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. W. Wetherall,*
Lieut.-col. the Royal Regiment.

The Deputy Adjt-general, Montreal.

— No. 53. —

(No. 5.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord *Glenelg* to Lieut.-gen. Sir *John Colborne*, K. C. B.,
dated Downing-street, 30 December 1837.

No. 53.

Sir,

I HAVE received Lord Gosford's Despatch of the 22d November, describing
the occurrences which, up to that date, had taken place in Lower Canada ; and
the General Commanding in Chief has laid before Her Majesty's Government your
Despatch to Lord F. Somerset of the 29th November, reporting the measures
which you had adopted in consequence of the demand of the law-officers of the
Crown and the magistrates of Montreal for the repression of attempts made by
bodies of armed persons to disturb the peace of the country, and to resist the
power of the law.

I have had the honour to lay these communications before The Queen, and
I have to convey to you Her Majesty's approbation of the vigour and decision with
which you have acted under the difficult circumstances in which you have been
placed. Her Majesty has also observed with much satisfaction the steadiness and
gallantry displayed by the troops employed on this arduous service ; and I am
commanded, especially, to express Her Majesty's sense of the zeal and judgment
evinced

evinced by Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall on the several occasions in which he has been employed. I cordially concur with you in the hope that what has recently occurred may be the means of quickly restoring tranquillity to the country. In my Despatches of the 27th ultimo, and 6th instant, Her Majesty's Government, acting on the recent information of the state of Lower Canada, communicated to them by Lord Gosford, conveyed to you full authority for using all the resources at your command for the maintenance of order and tranquillity, and for the protection of the loyal inhabitants of the Province..

Her Majesty's Government have since learned, with the most serious regret, the extent of the insurrectionary spirit in the districts lying near the Richelieu. This information reached them, though not officially, on the 23d instant. Her Majesty's Government felt it their duty, in consequence, to propose, that the period for which it was before intended that Parliament should adjourn should be considerably abridged, in order that no time might be lost in submitting to Parliament those measures which they feel the present state of affairs in Lower Canada to demand.

This proposal having been agreed to, Parliament will meet on the 16th January, on which day this subject will be brought under the consideration of The House of Commons, in pursuance of a notice which has been given to that effect by Lord John Russell.

I shall take the earliest opportunity of communicating to you the result of the proceedings in Parliament on this important question. My separate Despatch of this date will inform you of the military arrangements which have been made in order to give you the utmost support, in the adoption of effectual measures to check the progress of revolt, and restore the authority of the law.

Her Majesty's Government place full reliance on the judgment and energy with which you will conduct the affairs of the Province in its present circumstances; and I earnestly hope that the unhappy contest which has unfortunately arisen will be terminated at a very early period, and with as little injury to the interests and welfare of the Province as, under such circumstances, may be possible.

Her Majesty cannot contemplate the bloodshed and misery in which a portion of her subjects have involved themselves, without the deepest feeling of regret for the necessity which has occasioned the active services of her troops in one of the Provinces of the British Empire.

The Queen, however, entertains the fullest confidence, that, so far as depends on yourself, these evils will be restricted within the narrowest possible limits, and that on the part of her loyal and faithful subjects in the Province, no vindictive feeling will mingle itself with their zealous and strenuous endeavours, under your guidance, to put down insurrection and revolt, and to vindicate the authority of the law; but that their conduct will be equally marked with moderation as with firmness.

I have to request that you will furnish me with early and frequent intelligence of the course of events, and you may rely on a prompt attention being given by Her Majesty's Government to any suggestion which you may offer, calculated to strengthen your hands, and give greater efficiency to the local government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

— No. 54. —

(No. 123.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 30 November 1837.

My Lord,

In my Despatch of the 22d instant, No. 121, I reported to your Lordship the unfortunate result of an expedition of the civil force sent from Montreal to St. John's, with warrants for the arrest, on the charge of high treason, of certain individuals, who were rescued on the 17th by an armed body of inhabitants; and I now propose to give your Lordship as connected an account as the information in my possession will permit of subsequent occurrences.

On the return of the police to Montreal without their prisoners, the Attorney-general caused three depositions of what had occurred to be laid before Sir John

No. 54-

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
30 November 1837.

*Vide Papers pre-
sented to Parlia-
ment, 23 Dec. 1837.
Page 108.*

LOWER
CANADA.

No. 54.

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
30 November 1837.

Encl. No. 1.
17 Nov. 1837.

Colborne, the Lieutenant-general commanding (who has fixed his head quarters for the winter in that city), with a letter from a justice of the peace particularizing the events of the day, and calling upon him for military aid to assist in enforcing the civil authority. Accordingly, on the morning of the 18th, a brigade, consisting of four companies of the Royal regiment, with two field-pieces (six-pounders) were directed to proceed to Chambly, by Longueuil, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, accompanied by the deputy sheriff of Montreal, two magistrates, two peace officers and 15 mounted police, with instructions to assist in arresting such of the individuals as could be identified as having taken a part in the rescue of the preceding day, and thus made themselves principals in treason.

During the march to Chambly, armed parties were observed assembled at different points, apparently with an intention to offer resistance; but they fled upon a near approach of the troops, after an exchange, in one instance, of a few harmless shots. Seven of the fugitives were, however, taken prisoners with arms in their hands; and Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall closes his report with stating that the whole country was in arms, but evidently panic-struck.

Encl. No. 2.
18 Nov. 1837.

Encl. No. 3.
22 Nov. 1837.

*Vide Papers laid
before Parliament,
23 December 1837.
Page 102.*

Shortly after Colonel Wetherall had occupied Chambly, where it was, I believe, intended that a military force should be stationed for the winter, intelligence was received by the civil authorities in Montreal that Mr. T. S. Brown, who was wounded in the riot at Montreal (as mentioned in my despatch of the 9th instant, No. 116), had collected a considerable force at St. Charles on the river Richelieu, and that Papineau, O'Callaghan and Wolfred Nelson, against all of whom warrants for high treason had been issued, had done the same at St. Denis, six or seven leagues distant from St. Charles, lower down the river; and application was made to the military authorities to assist in the apprehension of these individuals. Five companies, with one six-pounder, and a small detachment of the Montreal mounted police, were, in consequence, despatched from Sorel, under the command of the Honourable Colonel Gore, on Wednesday night, the 22d instant, for St. Denis; and after a very harassing march of 12 hours, through most inclement weather, and over roads rendered almost impassable by previous heavy rains, arrived there about ten o'clock on the following morning. The insurgents were found posted in great force, under Dr. Wolfred Nelson, as it is understood; and, on the appearance of the troops, commenced a sharp fire upon them, especially from a large stone house at the entrance of the village, which was barricaded and fortified. The resistance was so determined that, after exhausting nearly all their ammunition, the troops were ordered, at about two o'clock, to retire upon Sorel, having lost six or eight men killed, and ten or twelve wounded; amongst the latter was Captain Markham, of the light company of the 32d regiment, who received four wounds, but, I am happy to say, that none of them are thought dangerous, and he is at present at Montreal doing well. In the retreat, which was conducted deliberately and in great order, it was found necessary, from the badness of the roads, to leave the field-piece behind, after spiking it. The detachment reached Sorel in safety, on Friday the 24th, after bivouacking one night on the road. The loss of the insurgents in this affair has not been ascertained, but it is supposed that they suffered in greater proportion, and Mr. Ovide Perrault, a Member of the Assembly, is reported to be amongst the slain. I regret to add, that Lieutenant Weir, of the 32d regiment, who had been sent with Despatches to Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, was, when returning to join Colonel Gore's division, taken prisoner, and there is, I fear, every reason to apprehend that he has been put to death.

*Vide Encl. No. 4,
and Despatch,
29 Nov., No. 52.*

On the same night (the 22d) that Colonel Gore left Sorel for St. Denis, Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall marched from Chambly with five companies, two pieces of artillery and about 20 mounted police, upon St. Charles, the object being that he should arrive there and make his attack at the same moment that Colonel Gore attacked St. Denis; but the badness of the roads and weather, and the destruction of the bridges by the insurgents, frustrated this design, and Colonel Wetherall did not reach St. Charles until Saturday noon, the 25th, when, within about a mile of the place, the troops were fired upon from the left or opposite bank of the Richelieu, and a man of the Royal regiment wounded; several rifle shots were also fired from a barn in their front, which was immediately burnt by the troops. The Colonel then took up a position, at first about 250 yards from the works which had been thrown up by the rebels, in the hope that a display of his force would induce some defection in their ranks; but on their opening a heavy fire he advanced nearer, and ultimately stormed

*Vide Despatch,
29 Nov., No. 52.*

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stormed and carried the stockade, after an hour's fighting. The slaughter among the insurgents was very great; an individual who left St. Charles on Monday, the 27th, two days after the engagement, states, that he saw upwards of 152 bodies interred, and that there remained many more, besides a great number killed in the buildings and burnt with them. It is supposed that their wounded amounted to about 300. The loss on the side of the troops was three killed and 18 wounded. The detachment, having accomplished the object of its mission, then fell back upon Chambly, where I suppose it has safely arrived.

More recent, but not official, accounts state that the rebels had, subsequent to the affair at St. Charles, abandoned St. Denis; but whether they dispersed to their homes, or retired upon some other position, I have not yet been able to ascertain.

From this statement your Lordship will perceive that the country about the river Richelieu is in a state of open rebellion; and the accounts I have received from the county of the Two Mountains and other parts of the district of Montreal, leave me no room to doubt that the supremacy of the laws is there at an end, and that any attempt by the civil authorities to exercise their legitimate functions and to enforce order would be met with the same armed and treasonable resistance.

The measures I have adopted, in order to prevent the spread of rebellion, and to put down the attempts avowedly made to overturn the Government, will, I trust, meet with the approbation of Her Majesty; they have been dictated by a sense of their urgent necessity, and were not resorted to without anxious deliberation and an entire conviction that the time had arrived when their adoption could no longer be safely deferred. I have, therefore, in addition to the force directed to be raised at Montreal and in the eastern townships, as already reported, authorized the embodying and paying, as troops of the line, 800 men, for the purpose of assisting, until the 1st of May next, in the performance of garrison and other military duty, and as required for the security of the fortress in case of attack. Enclosure, No. 5, is a copy of the conditions on which this corps has been raised; and, on similar conditions, an additional number of 250 men for the artillery service have, on the application of the officer commanding that force, and on the recommendation of the commandant of the garrison, been also organized. I have further sanctioned the formation of unpaid volunteer corps in this city and elsewhere, furnishing them only with arms and accoutrements, which are to be returned when the occasion for which they are supplied shall have ceased to exist. These measures, in which Sir John Colborne has concurred, were the more necessary, as troops from the lower provinces might not, at this particular period of the year, be enabled to come to our assistance for some time, although three expresses have been forwarded by Sir John to urge their making the attempt, and, by the existing law, the militia of the province can, I believe, be called out only in case of war with the United States, or invasion or imminent danger thereof.

I have also, with the advice of my Council, and upon the recommendation of the Attorney-general, this day issued Proclamations, offering a reward of £. 500 for the apprehension of Mr. Papineau, and of lesser sums for the apprehension of the 19 other individuals mentioned in the Enclosure, No. 6, against all of whom warrants for high treason have been issued. I have at the same time published the enclosed monitory Proclamation, No. 7, inviting the deluded *habitans* to return to their allegiance, offering in that case forgetfulness and immunity for the past, with a continuance of that paternal protection hitherto enjoyed by them under British sway, and calling upon all loyal subjects to maintain the authority of The Queen, and to counteract the rebellious designs of the disaffected. What may be the effect of this address upon the minds of the misguided peasantry it is difficult to say; they have disregarded my former warnings, the pastoral letter of their countryman, the Roman catholic bishop of Montreal, and the peaceful advice of their clergy, and it may be that my present proclamation will meet with no better reception. Adverting to this contingency, it has become a serious question with me, whether the insurgent localities should not, as a matter of absolute necessity, be placed under martial law, and I cannot abstain from expressing a fear that I shall be compelled, though with the deepest reluctance, ultimately, and, perhaps, almost immediately, to resort to this severe, but, if matters do not mend, indispensable measure. Indeed, the great majority of the magistrates of the city of Montreal, in formal

Encl. No. 5.
Nov. 1837.

Encl. No. 6.

Encl. No. 7.
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Encl. No. 8.
27 Nov. 1837.

session, have recently addressed me, urging its immediate adoption. The Executive Council also, in their report, dated the 20th instant, which accompanied my last Despatch, have, as your Lordship is aware, recommended that the disturbed portion of the district of Montreal should be declared to be in a state of insurrection and rebellion. And the Attorney and Solicitor-general, with whom I communicated on the subject, expressed their opinion, after discussing the question at some length, that such power is vested in Her Majesty and her representative in the Province.

In these circumstances, and should no favourable turn take place, it will become an act of painful but positive duty to employ all the resources lawfully at my disposal for the restoration of order and the maintenance of the connexion between Great Britain and the Province.

I forward this Despatch by New York, although I am not without apprehension that it may be intercepted; indeed I have been obliged to give directions to the deputy postmaster-general to open a communication by a different route with Montreal, as, when the navigation closes, there is every reason to fear that the ordinary post road will be no longer safe.

I have, &c.
(signed) Gosford.

Enclosure 1, in No. 54.

Sir,

Montreal, 17 November 1837.

Encl. 1, in No. 54. I AM directed by the Lieutenant-general commanding to desire that you will be prepared to march to-morrow morning, with the battalion under your command, for Chambly, *via* Longueuil, at seven o'clock A. M.

In consequence of the occurrences of this morning, the magistrates have applied for a military force to aid them in arresting certain persons who were concerned in firing at the constables in charge of prisoners in their custody for high treason; you are therefore to accompany the deputy sheriff or magistrate, and endeavour to assist them in arresting the offenders. Should they resist the civil power, or fire on the troops, you will fire on the rebels, and also destroy any house from which they may fire. Major Jackson has been directed to detach two light six-pounders to accompany you.

I have, &c.
Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall, (signed) Charles Gore,
Commanding 2d Battalion Royal Regiment. Deputy Quartermaster general.

Enclosure 2, in No. 54.

Sir,

Chambly, Saturday Evening, 18 November 1837.

Encl. 2, in No. 54. I DO myself the honour to report the arrival of the battalion under my command at Chambly at half-past four this evening.

At Longueuil we found all the houses closed, but the inhabitants at home; from that place, for seven miles, every house was closed or barricadoed, and not a man, woman or child to be seen.

The houses from which the cavalry were fired at were searched, but no arms or ammunition found; the female inhabitants and children were concealed in the woods, and the men were reported to have gone to Boucherville. The person who commanded the party who fired at the cavalry is said to be Mr. Viger, of that place. We apprehended one man armed and concealed in a hay-loft at an auberge about six miles from this place, and, owing to the great alertness and zeal of Captain David and his party, several armed parties, who apparently had assembled to resist us, were discovered, and fled on nearer approach. We apprehended six, two of them in a wood in which a party, abandoning their houses, took refuge; I detached Captain Bell's company to scour the woods, and several shots were exchanged, but no personal injury done to my knowledge. The above men were taken with arms in their hands, and ammunition was distributed to them last night by Dr. Kimber of this place, at a large meeting held near his house; Dr. Kimber has since fled to the United States. About 300 armed men had taken up a position near the river at Boothe's farm, for the purpose of resisting the volunteer cavalry, and they showed so good a front that I imagined that they would fulfil their determination. At the approach of my advanced guard they fled in all directions, and the cavalry succeeded in capturing them; all the prisoners are now in my custody, seven in number. In making these captures, we diverged from our route on some occasions, and in the villages off the high road every house was deserted; the whole country, in fact, is in arms, but evidently panic-struck. I request orders for the disposal of the prisoners, whose names are in possession of the magistrates.

I have, &c.
Colonel the Honourable Charles Gore, (signed) G. A. Wetherall,
Deputy Quartermaster-general. Commanding Royal Regiment.

Enclosure

Enclosure 3, in No. 54.

My dear Lord,

Montreal, 22 November 1837.

No. 54.

THE civil authorities having received intelligence that Brown has collected a considerable number of inhabitants at St. Charles, and that Papineau and O'Callaghan are with Nelson at St. Denis, they have called for the military to assist them in apprehending these persons. Colonel Wetherall will therefore move with five companies and two guns from Chambly this night, so as to arrive at St. Charles about daylight. Lieutenant-colonel Hughes will leave Sorel with five companies and one gun at midnight, and reach St. Denis about the same time that Colonel Wetherall appears before St. Charles.

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
30 November 1837.

Encl. 3, in No. 54.

It is of the greatest importance to drive the leaders of the revolt from their resting-places.

His Excellency the Earl of Gosford,
&c. &c. &c.

I remain, &c.
(signed) J. Colborne.

Enclosure 4, in No. 54.

My dear Lord,

Montreal, 24 November 1837.

I REGRET to inform you that the five companies which marched on St. Denis from Sorel, on Wednesday, under the command of Colonel Gore and Lieutenant-colonel Hughes, met with so much resistance at St. Denis, in consequence of the houses being strongly occupied, that he retired from that place towards Sorel about two o'clock yesterday. I have received no report from Colonel Gore of the affair; but the magistrates who accompanied him returned early this morning, and have communicated to me this intelligence.

Encl. 4, in No. 54.

I have not yet heard from Colonel Wetherall, who was on his march towards St. Charles about 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, and might have arrived at St. Charles about 10 o'clock on Thursday morning the 23d.

The civil war has now commenced, and I entreat your Lordship to form volunteer corps at Quebec, and to raise a corps for general service.

I remain, &c.
(signed) J. Colborne.

Enclosure 5, in No. 54.

CONDITIONS for raising a CORPS, to be called "The ROYAL VOLUNTEERS," to perform or assist in performing Garrison or other military duty.

1. THE CORPS.

This corps is to be composed of Her Majesty's subjects residing within the district of Quebec, is to be called the "Royal Quebec Volunteers," and is to be embodied until the 1st of May 1838, unless sooner disbanded by the Governor-in-chief.

Encl. 5, in No. 54.

The corps will be furnished with arms and accoutrements by the Government, and such of the men as may be found to require them will receive great coats, which must be delivered up when the corps is disbanded, or accounted for if lost or damaged.

The corps, when completed, will be inspected by the Governor-in-chief, and it is to be understood that such men as shall be found unfit for service shall be replaced with proper persons by the officer commanding the company to which such unfit men may belong.

The corps is to consist of 10 Companies, and to be officered as follows:—1 Major commanding, 10 Captains of Companies, 10 Lieutenants, 10 Ensigns, 1 Adjutant, 1 Paymaster, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Serjeant-major, 40 Non-commissioned Officers, 800 Rank and File.

2. THE OFFICERS.

The officers of the corps are to be appointed by the Governor-in-chief, and commissions will be given by his Excellency to the officers of each company as soon as the same is complete.

The officers, except such as hold commissions in Her Majesty's service, will rank junior to all officers of their respective grades in the line; none are to be considered as having any claim to half-pay or other allowance in right of their commissions after the corps shall have been disbanded.

3. THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

The staff-serjeants are to be named by the major commanding, and the other non-commissioned officers by the captains of the respective companies, subject to the approval of the major commanding.

The non-commissioned officers are to be subject to reduction by order of the major commanding.

4. THE RANK AND FILE.

The men to be raised to serve in this corps are to be between the ages of 19 and 50, not to be under five feet three inches in height.

The men are to be enrolled under articles of agreement, which each man shall sign in the presence of two witnesses:

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Encl. 5, in No. 54.

5. THE PAY, &c.

The pay and rations to be the same as those allowed to Her Majesty's regiments of the line.

The pay of the corps will be issued upon estimates made up by the commanding officer. The pay and rations will commence to each company as soon as the same is complete.

6. THE PAYMASTER.

The paymaster will be required to lodge with the Governor-in-chief security for the faithful performance of his duty, viz., himself in 500*L.*, and two sureties in 250*L.* each. The paymaster will adhere as much as possible to the regulations in force for the guidance of paymasters in the regiments of the line.

7. DISCIPLINE.

Any man who conducts himself in an unsoldierlike manner is to be forthwith dismissed, and to forfeit his pay, in addition to any other punishment that may be awarded to him.

Enclosure 6, in No. 54.

Encl. 6, in No. 54.

Louis Joseph Papineau, M. P. P.
Dr. Wolfred Nelson.
Thomas Storrow Brown.
Joseph Toussaint Drolet, M. P. P.
Edmund B. O'Callaghan, M. P. P.
Joseph J. Girouard, M. P. P.
William Henry Scott, M. P. P.
Cyrile Hector O'Cote, M. P. P.
Edouard Etienne Rodier, M. P. P.
Pierre Paul Demaray.

Joseph Toussaint Davignon.
Julien Gagnon.
Pierre Amiot, M. P. P.
Timothy Franchère, merchant.
Amury Girod.
Louis Perrault.
Alphonse Gauvin.
Louis Gauthier.
Rodolphe Desrivieres.
Jean O. Chenier.

Enclosure 7, in No. 54.

By His Excellency *Archibald Earl of Gosford, &c.*

A PROCLAMATION.

Encl. 7, in No. 54.

WHEREAS in certain counties of the district of Montreal disaffection to the Government of our Gracious Sovereign Queen Victoria has unequivocally declared itself, and divers outrages upon the persons and properties of Her Majesty's loyal subjects have been recently perpetrated therein: And whereas prisoners arrested on charges of high treason have been rescued from the hands of justice, and the troops of Her Majesty, in the lawful discharge of their duty, while aiding the civil authorities, have been assailed and fired upon by bands of armed peasantry:

And whereas it is notorious that the present blind and fatal excitement in that district is to be attributed to the machinations of a few evil-minded and designing men, who have imposed upon the credulity of an unsuspecting peasantry, and, by plausible misrepresentation and wilful calumny—by practising upon their fears and inflaming their passions—by appealing to national distinctions and exciting political prejudices, which it has been the unabated endeavour of the British Government to extinguish, have at length succeeded in implicating a part of a hitherto peaceable and loyal population in the first excesses of a reckless and hopeless revolt:

As the representative of our most Gracious Sovereign, I now most solemnly address myself to the inhabitants of this Province, but more especially to the misguided and inconsiderate population on the river Richelieu, in the district of Montreal. I address myself to your good sense and your personal experience of the benefits you have received, and of the tranquillity you have so long enjoyed under the British Government. You possess the religion, the language, the laws and the institutions guaranteed to you nearly 70 years since. You know not the burthen of taxes; the expense of your military defence is defrayed by Great Britain; the prosperity and happiness which have hitherto pervaded this Province proclaim honourably and undeniably the political wisdom which watches over your safety, encourages your commerce, and fosters your rising industry. The spontaneous confidence of the British Parliament bestowed on you a constitution; your representatives complained of grievances; their complaints were promptly and fully investigated; grievances, where proved to exist, were removed at once; redress the most ample, but unavoidably gradual, was unreservedly promised, and up to this moment that promise has been scrupulously observed; but the demands of your leaders are insatiable; the language of Reform has speciously concealed the designs of revolution.

I have thus far deemed it my duty to explain the injustice and inadmissibility of the objects for which your leaders contend, and for the attainment of which they would wantonly sacrifice you and your families. The traitorous designs of these political agitators have been at length unmasked; I now, therefore, call upon those who have been thus far deluded to listen to the language of reason, sincerity and truth—listen to the exhortations of your respectable and trustworthy clergy—listen to the representations of those worthy and loyal proprietors

proprietors whose interests are identified with your own, and whose prosperity, in common with yours, must ever be graduated and governed by the internal tranquillity of this Province. Return to that allegiance to your Sovereign which you have now for the first time violated, and to that obedience to the law which you have hitherto invariably maintained. Spurn from you your insidious advisers; reject with abhorrence their self-interested and treasonable counsels; leave them to that retribution which inevitably awaits them; retire to your homes and to the bosoms of your families; rest assured that a powerful and merciful Government is more desirous to forget than to resent injuries, and that within that sanctuary you will experience no molestation.

And further, by and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Executive Council of and for the Province of Lower Canada, I, the said Archibald Earl of Gosford, do hereby call upon all Her Majesty's loyal subjects in this Province, to be prepared at all times to maintain against all aggressors the authority of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, and to counteract the rebellious designs of the disaffected in this Province.

The dearest rights and privileges of British subjects, their laws and institutions, have been openly and audaciously assailed; they will remember that those sentiments of loyalty and honour which were the pride of their forefathers are the inheritance of their children; and in defending their allegiance to their Gracious Queen, and the connexion which has so long existed between this favoured Colony and Great Britain, they will rush forward as one man to prove their gratitude for the blessings they enjoy, and their unswerving determination to maintain them unimpaired.

29 November 1837.

Enclosure 8, in No. 54.

Montreal:—Court of Special Sessions of the Peace, Monday, 27 November 1837.

Encl. 8, in No. 54.

PRESENT:

The Hon. Toussaint Pothier.	George Holt,
The Hon. Denis B. Viger.	Henry Corse,
The Hon. Peter M'Gill.	William Evans,
The Hon. Pierre de Rocheblave.	Pierre E. Leclerc,
Laurence Kidd,	Benjamin Hart,
William Robertson,	Turton Penn,
Jules Quesnel,	Moses J. Hayes,
Joseph Shuter,	E. H. Barron,
Benjamin Holmes,	Thomas B. Wragg,
John Jones,	Joseph Castonguay,
Daniel Arnoldi,	Logan Fuller,
E. M. Leprohon,	Patrice Lacombe,
Benjamin Hall,	P. L. Panct, Esquires.

The Hon. Pierre de Rocheblave is called to the Chair.

This meeting was called for the purpose of considering the expediency of addressing the Executive, representing that, for the safety of the country, it has become necessary to place this district under martial law,

The Hon. Louis Guy, C. S. Rodier, and J. T. Barrett, Esquires, came in and took their seats.

Resolved unanimously, on motion of Mr. Peter M'Gill, seconded by Mr. Hart, That the standard of rebellion has been raised in various portions of this district, and considerable bodies of armed men have assembled, under the command of persons who have publicly declared, that their object was to upset the Government of this Province, and to sever its connexion with the United Kingdom, and have fired on and killed a number of Her Majesty's troops, while executing the orders of the Civil Government.

Paul Joseph Lacroix and Alexis Laframboise came in and took their seats.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. M'Gill, seconded by Mr. Hart, That there is reason to apprehend that an extensive system of insurrection is in active progress of organization in this district, conducted by persons notoriously disaffected to Her Majesty's Government, who the regular forms and process of civil law do not permit being immediately arrested and brought to punishment, thereby endangering the safety of the city, and the lives and properties of Her Majesty's subjects throughout the district.

Mr. Viger dissenting, Mr. Guy and Mr. Castonguay did not vote.

Resolved therefore, on motion of Mr. M'Gill, seconded by Mr. Hart, That the magistrates now in special sessions assembled, do represent to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, that in their opinion the exigencies of the times require that this district be placed under martial law.

Mr. Viger dissenting, Mr. Guy and Mr. Castonguay did not vote.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. M'Gill, seconded by Mr. Arnoldi, That a copy of the preceding resolutions be transmitted to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief this day.

Mr. Viger dissenting, Mr. Guy and Mr. Castonguay did not vote.

Certified to be a true copy from the Register of Special Sessions of the Peace.

(signed)

Delisle & Delisle,

Clerk of the Peace.

LOWER
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— No. 55. —

No. 55.

(No. 130.)

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
6 December 1837.COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated
Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 6 December 1837.

My Lord,

In my Despatch of the 30th ultimo, No. 123, I expressed my fears that I should be compelled to declare martial law almost immediately in the district of Montreal, and it is with the most painful regret I now acquaint your Lordship, that from the aspect of affairs in that district, and the subsequent proceedings of the insurgents, I found that I could no longer abstain from a resort to the only measure left untried for maintaining therein the royal authority, and restoring order. Accordingly I last night issued, with the advice of my Council, a Proclamation, a copy of which I enclose, subjecting the district of Montreal to martial law; together with a commission, investing Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne with the necessary authority to execute it. But in order to alleviate as much as possible the severity of this measure, I caused the accompanying letter to be addressed to Sir John, instructing him in all cases wherein the large powers confided to him could be used in co-operation with or subordination to the ordinary laws; and where, from local circumstances, or a prompt return to their allegiance, the deluded *habitans* should evince a sincere contrition, to revert at once to the assistance of the civil authorities, and to endeavour to impress upon the minds of the misguided people a conviction that the Government is as prompt to pardon the repentant as to punish the refractory.

Resuming the narrative of events on the river Richelieu contained in my Despatch, No. 123, which left Colonel Gore at Sorel after his retreat from Saint Denis, and Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall on his return to Chambly, after his success at Saint Charles, I now proceed to give your Lordship the information that has since come to my knowledge.

It appears that two pieces of artillery (24-pounders) were mounted in the intrenchments thrown up by the insurgents at Saint Charles, but were of little or no service, and, when the place was carried, were spiked and thrown into the river Richelieu. Twenty-five prisoners were taken by Colonel Wetherall, but none of any note. In returning to Chambly, the troops were frequently fired upon, without effect, from the opposite bank of the river, and on arriving at a place called Point Olivier a large body of armed insurgents were encountered, drawn up with an intention to intercept them; a short skirmish ensued, which ended in the complete dispersion of the rebels, with the loss of a few men killed, seven taken prisoners, and two small pieces of artillery, which they had with them; the troops met with no accident, and reached Chambly without further interruption; and Colonel Wetherall, leaving one company of his detachment at Chambly and another at Saint John's, proceeded with the remaining five, the artillery and the mounted police, to Montreal, where he arrived with his 32 prisoners on Thursday the 30th ultimo.

On the same morning Colonel Gore, who had in the meantime returned to Montreal from Sorel, was again despatched thither with five companies, two field-pieces, and a cornet's detachment of the Volunteer Cavalry, his instructions being to proceed with that force and part of the detachment of three companies left at Sorel, to make another attack on Saint Denis. On his arrival, however, at the village on the 2d instant, he found it unoccupied, Wolfred Nelson and T. S. Brown having left it the previous evening. After destroying the houses from which the troops had been fired on at the former attack, Colonel Gore proceeded with part of the forces under his command to Saint Charles, which he passed on Sunday the 3d instant, on his way to Saint Hyacinthe, where it is reported the rebels had collected. Sir John Colborne has informed me that it is his intention to occupy Saint Charles and Saint Denis for the present. I may add that the gun which had been abandoned on the road after the first attack on Saint Denis was recovered, as well as the five wounded soldiers who were left behind on that occasion, and who appear to have been well treated.

The accounts from the county of Two Mountains, on the opposite side of Montreal, continue as unfavourable as ever. The rebels are reported to be mustering in considerable numbers, and have been for some time past employed in throwing up intrenchments and making other preparations for open and active warfare; and reports are constantly afloat of attacks being contemplated
from

Encl. No. 1,
4 Dec. 1837.Encl. No. 2,
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5 Dec. 1837.

from that quarter against the city of Montreal; but these, I think, are circulated merely for the purpose of producing alarm. The post and all other communications in that direction have been stopped, the country being, for the present, in the possession of the insurgents, who have forced a large portion of the loyal part of the population to seek for safety in Montreal.

The intelligence from Terrebonne is also far from being of a satisfactory nature, and the Attorney-general, in his last report to me, presses the immediate declaration of martial law, as the only measure likely to check the progress of insurrection. He also mentions the receipt from the frontier of information which may be relied upon; and I have myself had similar intelligence from other quarters, that the rebels are endeavouring to enlist American citizens to be introduced into the province to assist in overturning The Queen's Government. On learning this, I lost no time in writing to our minister at Washington on the subject, requesting him to take the earliest opportunity of calling the attention of the general government to the matter, with a view to their adopting such a course as one State may reasonably expect from another with whom it is on terms of peace and amity.

All these circumstances, which have come to my knowledge since the date of my last Despatch, combined with the excesses committed in various parts of the district of Montreal on many of its peaceful and loyal inhabitants, have convinced me that I ought no longer to delay exercising the power which, according to the opinion of Her Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-general in the province, is legally vested in me, of declaring martial law; and I sincerely hope that its mere announcement will produce such an effect as to render unnecessary a resort to those extreme severities which usually accompany such a proceeding. It is a remedy that has been generally called for, and will, I conscientiously believe, lessen the destruction of human life, and ultimately prove the most humane as well as the most effectual measure that could be adopted in the present unfortunate position of affairs. These considerations had great weight in influencing my decision.

Of the criminal leaders of this reckless insurrection, nothing certain is yet known, but it is believed that many of them are on the frontier in the United States. The Proclamations offering rewards for their apprehension, mentioned in my Despatch, No. 123, were not then actually published, and others have since been issued offering larger sums for some of them; viz., £. 1,000 instead of £. 500 for Papineau, and £. 500 instead of £. 200 for O'Callaghan, Brown, W. Nelson, Cote and six others, and £. 100 for eight more of lesser note and influence.

I have, &c.

(signed) Gosford.

P. S.—I have the honour to transmit, with reference to Enclosure, No. 8, in my Despatch of the 30th ultimo, a copy of further proceedings on the subject of declaring martial law in the district of Montreal, had at a meeting of the magistrates of that city on the 5th instant, and which I have just received.

Encl. No. 4,
5 Dec. 1837.

Enclosure 1, in No. 55.

MINUTE of the Executive Council of *Lower Canada*, dated 4 December 1837, sanctioning the Declaration of Martial Law in the District of *Montreal*.

Monday, 4 December 1837.

Encl. 1, in No. 55.

At the Council Chamber in the Government Buildings.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Earl of Gosford, Captain general and Governor-in-chief, &c. &c. &c.

The Hon. Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Pemberton.

Mr. Panet, and

Mr. Sheppard.

His Excellency laid before the Board the Attorney and Solicitor-general's opinion, and report upon the right of the Crown to declare martial law, together with the Attorney-general's draft of a Proclamation, dated 28th November 1837, declaring the district of Montreal under martial law; and as it appears by the Attorney and Solicitor-general's report, that the functions of the ordinary legal tribunals may be considered as having

LOWER
CANADA.

No. 55.

Earl of Gosford to
Lord Glenelg,
6 December 1837.

Encl. 1, in No. 55.

virtually ceased in the district of Montreal, and that scarcely in any part thereof process of any description can be served, or writs executed by the ministry of civil officers :

It was ordered, with the advice of the Board, that the Attorney-general's draft be adopted, and that a Proclamation do accordingly issue, declaring the district of Montreal under martial law, and empowering the proper authorities to carry the same into effect.

(Certified)

George H. Ryland.

Enclosure 2, in No. 55.

PROCLAMATION issued by the Earl of Gosford, on the 5th December 1837, declaring Martial Law in the District of *Montreal*, in the Province of *Lower Canada*.

Encl. 2, in No. 55. Province of Lower Canada.

By his Excellency the Right honourable Archibald Earl of Gosford, Baron Warlingham, of Beccles, in the county of Suffolk, Captain-general and Governor-in-chief in and over the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, Vice-Admiral of the same, and one of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, &c. &c. &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS there exists in the district of Montreal a traitorous conspiracy, by a number of persons falsely styling themselves patriots, for the subversion of the authority of Her Majesty, and the destruction of the established constitution and government of the said province: And whereas the said traitorous conspiracy hath broken out into acts of the most daring and open rebellion: And whereas the said rebellion hath very considerably extended itself, insomuch that large bodies of armed traitors have openly arrayed themselves, and have made and do still make attacks upon Her Majesty's forces, and have committed the most horrid excesses and cruelties: And whereas in the parts of the said district in which the said conspiracy hath not as yet broken out into open rebellion, large numbers of such persons so calling themselves patriots, for the execution of such their wicked designs, have planned means of open violence, and formed public arrangements for raising and arming an organized and disciplined force; and in furtherance of their purposes have frequently assembled in great and unusual numbers: And whereas the exertions of the civil power are ineffectual for the suppression of the aforesaid traitorous and wicked conspiracy and rebellion, and for the protection of the lives and properties of Her Majesty's loyal subjects: And whereas the courts of justice in the said district of Montreal have virtually ceased, from the impossibility of executing any legal process or warrant of arrest therein:

Now, therefore, I, Archibald Earl of Gosford, Governor-in-chief and Captain-general in and over the said Province of Lower Canada, by and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Executive Council for this Province, have issued orders to Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, commanding Her Majesty's forces in the said Province, and other officers of Her Majesty's forces in the same, to arrest and punish all persons acting, aiding or in any manner assisting in the said conspiracy and rebellion which now exist within the said district of Montreal, and which have broken out in the most daring and violent attacks upon Her Majesty's forces, according to martial law, either by death, or otherwise, as to them shall seem right and expedient for the punishment and suppression of all rebels in the said district; of which all Her Majesty's subjects in this Province are hereby required to take notice.

Given under my hand and seal, at arms, at the Castle of St. Lewis, in the city of Quebec, the 5th day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, and in the first year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command,

(signed)

D. Daly,

Secretary of the Province.

Enclosure 3, in No. 55.

LETTER from Earl Gosford's Civil Secretary to Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, transmitting a Royal Commission, authorizing him to execute Martial Law in the District of *Montreal*, Province of *Lower Canada*.

Sir,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 5 December 1837.

Encl. 3, in No. 55.

In transmitting to you the accompanying commission, authorizing you to execute martial law in the district of Montreal, where it has been declared to exist by a Proclamation dated to-day, I am commanded by his Excellency the Governor-in-chief to intimate to you that, although the exigency of the present conjuncture has rendered such a measure indispensable to the maintenance of Her Majesty's royal authority in that district, and to the restoration of order, it is still his Excellency's earnest hope that the declaration of martial law will of itself strike such salutary terror into the hearts of the disaffected in that district as will obviate

obviate the necessity of having recourse to those extreme severities the execution of which is hereby confided to you, and to which, in the present dangerous crisis and in the absence of all other remedy, his Excellency most reluctantly is compelled to resort.

I have it therefore in command from his Excellency to instruct you, that in all cases wherein the unlimited power with which you are now invested can be exercised in co-operation with, or in subordination to, the ordinary laws of the land, and that in all cases where from local circumstances, or from a prompt return to their allegiance, the deluded inhabitants of any part of that district display an honest contrition for their past offences, you will revert at once to the assistance of the civil authorities, and impress upon a misguided people the conviction that Her Majesty's Government in this Province is equally prompt to pardon the repentant and punish the incorrigible.

These instructions will alleviate, in some degree, the apparent severity of a measure which the present painful emergency imposes on his Excellency, and will relieve you from any responsibility that might otherwise arise out of the exercise, on all fitting occasions, of that leniency which his Excellency feels assured is so congenial to your feelings.

I have, &c.

(signed) *S. Walcott*, Civil Secretary.

Enclosure 4, in No. 55.

Montreal. Court of Special Sessions of the Peace, Tuesday, 5 December 1837.

Encl. 4, in No. 55.

PRESENT:

The Hon. Toussaint Pothier,
Jules Quesnel,
James Brown,
John Jones,
Joseph Shuter,
Benjamin Hall,
J. T. Barrett,
Daniel Arnoldi,
Lawrence Kidd,
H. Corse,
Turton Penn,

William Evans,
J. B. Castonguay,
John Molson,
Benjamin Hart,
Charles Tuit,
S. Bellingham,
P. J. Lacroix,
E. M. Leprohon,
A. Laframboise,
T. B. Wragg, Esqrs.

Mr. Quesnel is called to the chair.

The following gentlemen came in: Messrs. M'Gill, Wm. Robertson, Wm. Hall, H. E. Barron, William Donegaire, P. E. Leclerc, Benjamin Holmes, P. de Rocheblave, Etienne Guy and O. Berthelet.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Penn, seconded by Mr. Hart, That at the time when the resolutions of the meeting of the magistrates, of the 27th ult., were transmitted to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, a press of business did not permit the said resolutions being accompanied by explanations that might, perhaps, have been necessary. It is therefore

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the turbulent and disaffected persons who have incited the peasantry to rebel against Her Majesty's Government have been led on and encouraged in their career of crime by a firm belief that, whatever might be their political offences, they would not be declared guilty by any jury impannelled in the ordinary course of law; that the great mass of the population in this district having been engaged in aiding and abetting the late treasonable attempts, a fair and impartial verdict cannot be expected from a jury taken indiscriminately from the legally-qualified inhabitants, and that, unless measures are adopted to ensure the equal dispensation of justice, few, if any, even of the most guilty among the rebels, will receive the punishment justly due to their crimes; while the loyal and well-disposed will continue to be exposed to persecution and outrage from those who believe themselves beyond the reach of legal retribution.

Resolved, That the faithful and attached subjects of Her Majesty in this district, who have proved their fidelity by a zealous support of the Government in times of peril and difficulty, are entitled to claim adequate protection from the Executive of the Province; and that this meeting declares its deliberate conviction that the only effectual mode of granting that protection, and of arresting the progress of crime and of social disorganization, is to place this district under martial law.

Resolved, on motion of William Robertson, seconded by Mr. Hart, That from information received, there is reason to believe that a number of turbulent and dissolute characters are collecting in the vicinity of the lines dividing this province from the United States, for the avowed purpose of entering the Province to aid and assist the rebels already in arms, and that it is the opinion of this meeting that measures beyond the ordinary course of law are necessary to guard against the treasonable designs of such persons.

Resolved, That a copy of the preceding resolutions be transmitted to his Excellency the Governor-in-chief, praying that he will be pleased to take the same into early consideration.

Certified to be a true copy from the Register of Special Sessions.

(signed)

Delisle & Delisle,
Clerk of the Peace.

LOWER
CANADA.

— No. 56. —

No. 56.
Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
3 December 1837.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-general Sir *John Colborne*, K. C. B., to the Major-general Lord *Fitzroy Somerset*, K. C. B., dated Montreal, 3 December 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, that as soon as I could collect a sufficient force in Montreal, after the dispersion of the rebels at St. Charles, I ordered eight companies and three field-pieces to be assembled at Sorel, and to march on St. Denis.

You will perceive from the report from Colonel Gore, that he entered St. Denis yesterday.

I have every reason to believe, that the *habitans* who had taken up arms on the Richelieu have returned to their homes. Her Majesty's troops occupy at present, St. John's, Chambly, St. Charles, St. Denis, St. Ours and Sorel, in the neighbourhood of which places there is no appearance of disturbance.

— No. 57. —

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-general Sir *John Colborne*, K. C. B., to the Major-general Lord *Fitzroy Somerset*, K. C. B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 7 December 1837.

No. 57.
Sir J. Colborne to
Lord F. Somerset,
7 December 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the General Commanding in Chief, that Colonel Gore having received my instructions to move on St. Denis, and to attack the rebels occupying that village, he marched from Sorel on the 1st instant, with eight companies under his command, and three field-pieces. The rebels, on the approach of Her Majesty's troops, abandoned their position and dispersed, leaving the arms and ammunition which they had collected in the village.

Colonel Gore, being informed that the principal leaders of the rebels had retired to St. Hyacinthe, marched to that town, by St. Charles, on the 4th instant; but on ascertaining that Wolfred Nelson, Papineau and the other leaders of the revolt had made their escape, he returned to St. Charles.

It appears, from the report of Colonel Gore, which is annexed, that the *habitans* in the neighbourhood of St. Hyacinthe have returned to their homes; and I am persuaded that the march of the troops through that part of the country has already produced a good effect.

The rebels are again assembling near the frontier in the direction of Stanbridge and St. Armand's, and it is my intention to send troops from St. John's in a few days to attack them.

In the county of the Two Mountains, the *habitans* are still in arms, and I shall not be able to send a force to occupy the villages of which they have taken possession, till the season is more advanced.

I beg to assure the General Commanding in Chief, that although the Governor in Chief has considered it necessary to declare the district of Montreal under Martial Law, I shall on every occasion avail myself of the assistance and advice of the civil authorities in carrying into effect such measures as may be required to restore order and to protect the property of the loyal inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Colborne*, Lieut.-gen.

Enclosure in No. 57.

Montreal, 7 December 1837.

Sir,

Encl. in No. 57.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at Sorel on Thursday evening, the 30th of November, with the force under my command.* On the morning of the 1st of December I attempted to break through the ice in the Richelieu, with the steam-boat, John Bull, but on proceeding a mile found it impracticable, when I landed and proceeded to St. Ours, where I halted for the night, and proceeded on the following morning on the road to St. Denis, which I entered without opposition, that place having been abandoned the night before.

The

* Royal Artillery, one howitzer; 24th regiment, one company; 32d regiment, four companies; 66th regiment, two companies; 83d regiment, one company.

The property of the rebel, Wolfred Nelson, was, in the course of the day and next morning, destroyed, and also the fortified house and all the defences.

On the morning of the 4th, I marched on St. Charles, where I arrived at noon, with five companies and two guns, having left at St. Denis three companies and one gun, under Major Reid, 32d regiment. Having received information that some of the rebel chiefs were at St. Hyacinthe, I immediately proceeded, according to your Excellency's orders, to that place, which I entered in the evening; and surrounding the house where Papineau usually resided at that place, it was strictly searched, but without finding him.

I was accompanied by Mon. Crenier, the parish priest, who gave me every information in his power; and, I am happy to say, that it is his opinion that the *habitans* now begin to see their folly, and that they have been grossly misled. They have returned to their homes in the whole of the counties between the Richelieu and the Yamaska, and gave every assistance required for transport.

I halted the troops on the 4th at St. Hyacinthe. The Curé called an assemblé of the principal inhabitants and the *habitans*; he addressed them with great eloquence, showing the selfish designs of their leaders, the folly of being led by them from their allegiance, exhorted them to continue in their homes, and assist in arresting the rebel chiefs, and which they promised to do.

I returned to St. Charles in the evening, directing the force at St. Hyacinthe to return next day; two companies of the 83d to occupy St. Charles with one gun; three companies and one gun St. Denis, with a detachment at St. Ours, and, taking the remainder of the force, four companies of the 32d, and a howitzer, I returned to Sorel, and arrived here this forenoon at 11 o'clock.

This operation has produced the best effect possible,—it has opened the eyes of the *habitans* in these populous districts, where the influence of the rebel leaders was great, and shown the *habitans* Her Majesty's troops where their presence was least expected.

The howitzer which was left on the road was recovered. An iron gun taken, and considerable quantities of arms and ammunition found at St. Denis, were destroyed.

I have, &c.

(signed)

Charles Gore, Colonel.

Lieutenant-colonel Sir John Colborne, K.C.B.
commanding in the Canadas.

— No. 58. —

(No. 6.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lord Glenelg to Lieut.-gen. Sir John Colborne, K.C.B., dated Downing-street, 6 January 1838.

Sir,

SINCE I last addressed you on the 30th ultimo, I have received the Earl of Gosford's Despatches of the 30th November, No. 123, and the 6th December, No. 130, which, together with your Despatches to Lord Fitzroy Somerset of the 3d and 7th December, contain a report of the recent progress of affairs in Lower Canada, of the second expedition under Colonel Gore to the banks of the Richelieu, and of the Proclamation of Martial Law in the district of Montreal.

Having had the honour to lay these Despatches before The Queen, I am commanded to convey to you Her Majesty's entire approbation of the course which has been pursued by yourself, and by the Earl of Gosford, with reference to the transactions which they detail. I am not in possession of the informations on which the warrants for the arrest of certain individuals have been issued, but I have no doubt that they were such as to justify that proceeding, under the actual circumstances of the country.

It is highly satisfactory to Her Majesty to find that the measures which you adopted had produced so decided an effect, in suppressing the insurrection in the neighbourhood of the Richelieu, and that on the occasion of the last expedition under Colonel Gore no resistance was offered to Her Majesty's troops; but that, on the contrary, the *habitans* gave every assistance which was required for the purpose of transport. The disposition thus evinced by the *habitans*, the abandonment of St. Denis, and of the other villages in the neighbourhood by the armed insurgents, and their apparent dispersion, may, I trust, warrant the expectation that, under a firm but temperate administration of the power at present vested in the Local Government, the time is not far distant when the authority of the law will have been fully vindicated, and tranquillity restored to the Province. Her Majesty's Government can, however, entertain no doubt that, after the events

No. 58.

Lord Glenelg to
Sir J. Colborne,
6 January 1838.

LOWER
CANADA.

No. 58.

Lord Glenelg to
Sir J. Colborne,
6 January 1838.

*Vide Papers pre-
sented to Parlia-
ment, 23 Dec. 1837,
page 106.*

which have recently occurred, and under the circumstances still actually existing in a part of the district of Montreal, the proclamation of martial law could not properly have been longer delayed, but had become indispensable to the maintenance of The Queen's authority and the protection of the loyal inhabitants of that district. In the adoption of this extreme measure, Lord Gosford only anticipated the instruction which I addressed to you in my Despatch of the 6th December, for your guidance in the event, which has since unhappily taken place, of this exercise of the prerogative becoming necessary for the suppression of actual revolt. Deeply regretting, while they fully admit this necessity, Her Majesty's Government have observed with much satisfaction the recommendation addressed to you by Lord Gosford in his letter of the 5th December, and the determination which you have expressed to the General Commanding in Chief to restrict the operation of martial law within the narrowest limits which shall be consistent with the public safety, and not to withdraw from the ordinary tribunals any cases which can properly be left to their decision. Her Majesty's Government are also assured that Lord Gosford exercised a sound discretion in not having recourse to this measure without the most conclusive evidence of the inadequacy of any milder remedy to meet the existing evil. His proclamation of the 29th of November was dictated by a spirit of enlightened humanity, and will, I trust, not be ineffectual in recalling some, at least, of the misguided peasantry to their allegiance to their Sovereign.

The Queen cheerfully accepts the tender of service which has been made to Lord Gosford by a considerable number of the inhabitants of Quebec, and is pleased to sanction the conditions proposed by his Lordship, for the corps of volunteers to be raised in that city. I am further commanded to express to you the high sense which Her Majesty entertains of the zeal and the loyalty of that large body of her subjects in Lower Canada, who have enrolled themselves on the present occasion for the defence of the Province and the suppression of revolt.

I trust that you will have been enabled, as soon as the season may have allowed military movements, to effect the dispersion of the insurgents in those parts of the district of Montreal, in which, from the last accounts, they appeared still to be assembled in considerable numbers. Her Majesty's Government, however, entertain the fullest confidence in the judgment and discretion which will have governed whatever measures you may have adopted with a view to this object, or in reference to the general state of the Province.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Glenelg.*

U P P E R C A N A D A.

— No. 59. —

(No. 117.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *F. B. Head* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Toronto, 25 October 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE great satisfaction in transmitting to your Lordship, the annexed copy of a communication I have lately addressed to Sir John Colborne, respecting which, I have only to observe, that the whole of the military force which I require in Upper Canada, namely, a company at Bytown (on the banks of the Ottawa), is stationed there merely to protect the inhabitants from the Lower Canadian boatmen and lumbermen, who for some time have been in the habit of committing serious acts of aggression.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. B. Head.*

UPPER CANADA.

No. 59.

Sir *F. B. Head* to Lord *Glenelg*,
25 October 1837.

17 Oct. 1837.

Enclosure in No. 59.

My dear Sir John,

Toronto, 17 October 1837.

IN reference to that part of your letter of the 10th instant (this moment received) in which you state that you have made arrangements for assembling troops at certain points to aid the civil authorities, and to encourage the loyal, which will compel you to withdraw from Upper Canada as many companies of the 24th as I can spare you, to show a good front at this crisis, I have pleasure in being able to inform you, that, excepting the small detachment at Bytown, I consider that this Province can dispense with as many of the troops as you may deem it desirable to require.

Encl. in No. 59.

Lieut.-general Sir John Colborne, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c., Sorel.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *F. B. Head.*

— No. 60. —

(No. 119.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *F. B. Head* to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Toronto, 3 November 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter I have lately addressed to Sir John Colborne, which will explain to your Lordship my reasons for desiring that the troops may be withdrawn from Upper Canada during the present crisis in Lower Canada.

Mr. M'Kenzie has made every exertion to get up sedition in this Province, for the purpose of deceiving people in England into the idea that both the Canadas are disturbed; but he has completely failed; and as I think it of great advantage that this fact should not only be asserted by me, but proved, I have sent away the troops, and have placed all the arms (about 6,000 stand) in charge of the mayor and aldermen of the city of Toronto.

The militia has very zealously been desirous to put a guard over them; but I have insisted on their being merely under the care of a couple of policemen, and of the inhabitants generally. I know perfectly well that there exists no body of men in this Province who would dare to attack Government property under the protection of the civil authorities of Toronto, and I therefore think that a militia guard which would presuppose the possibility of such an offence would tend to encourage rather than to deter.

I am happy to assure your Lordship, that the attempts made by Mr. Papineau's agent, Mr. M'Kenzie, have completely failed; and that I have not the slightest apprehension that any disturbance of importance will be made in this loyal Province during the approaching winter.

I have, &c.
(signed) *F. B. Head.*

No. 60.

Sir *F. B. Head* to Lord *Glenelg*,
3 November 1837.

31 Oct. 1837.

No. 60.

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
3 November 1837.

Encl. in No. 60.

Enclosure in No. 60.

Dear Sir John,

Toronto, 31 October 1837.

On the receipt of your despatch of the 24th, which I received yesterday, I immediately begged Colonel Foster to carry your wishes into effect, by sending you down the 24th regiment. Colonel Foster told me you were good enough to propose that a guard should be left for me and for the stores and commissariat, but I begged to give up my sentry and orderlies, and in fact to send you the *whole* of the 24th, which is stationed here.

I will now endeavour to explain to you the course of policy I am desirous to pursue. I am sure you will be of opinion that a great deal, if not the whole, of the agitation which is carried on in Lower Canada is intended to have the immediate effect of intimidating the two Houses of Parliament in England, by making them believe that republicanism is indigenous to the soil of America, and that nothing else will grow there.

But Mr. Papineau knows quite well that this assertion will not be considered as proved unless Upper Canada joins in it, and accordingly Mr. M'Kenzie and his gang, under his directions, are doing every thing in their power here to get up any thing that may be made to pass for agitation in the London market.

This Province is, as far as my experience goes, more loyal and more tranquil than any part of England; however, this does not matter to Mr. M'Kenzie, provided he can get up a few sets of violent resolutions, which you know very well are easily effected.

Now what I desire to do is completely to upset Mr. Papineau, so far as Upper Canada is concerned, by proving to people in England that this Province requires no troops at all, and consequently that it is *perfectly tranquil*.

I consider that this evidence will be of immense importance, as it at once shows the conduct of Lower Canada to be factious; whereas, could it, under colour of a few radical meetings here, be asserted that the *two* Provinces were on the brink of revolution, it would, as you know, be argued as an excuse for granting the demands of Mr. Papineau. I consider it of immense importance, practically, to show to the Canadas that loyalty produces tranquillity, and that disloyalty not only brings troops into the Province, but also involves it in civil war.

To attain the object I have long had in view, I deemed it advisable not to retain, either for myself or for the stores, the few men we have been accustomed to require; for I felt I could not completely throw myself, as I wished to do, on the inhabitants of the Province so long as there remained troops in the garrison.

I cannot, of course, explain to you all the reasons I have for my conduct, but I can assure you that I have deeply reflected on it, and well know the materials I have to deal with.

The detachment of artillery and the barrack-master, who, I understand, is to take up his quarters in the barracks, will be, I believe, sufficient to take care of the barrack stores. The arms I have put under the charge of the mayor, which I am confident will arouse a very excellent feeling, which will immediately spread over the Province. The military chest will be deposited for safe custody in the vaults of the Upper Canada Bank, where it will be much safer than in its present remote situation.

I enclose you a copy of a communication I have addressed to the mayor, and also to Mr. Foote, which will explain the arrangements I have made, for which I am quite prepared to take upon myself all the responsibility I have incurred.

I have now to ask you to assist me further in the policy I am pursuing, by removing the 24th regiment from Kingston, so as to take them out of Upper Canada. I have not the slightest occasion for them, particularly in that direction, where all is nothing but loyalty; but if they remain there, the moral I am desirous to attain will be spoiled, for it will be argued in England that all which has been done in Upper Canada is merely that the troops have been moved from the midland to the eastern district. I am afraid you may find difficulty in finding room for them in the Lower Province, but if by any exertion you can effect my wishes, I feel confident you will do so.

It is with reluctance I have incurred the responsibilities I have mentioned; I know the arrangements I have made are somewhat irregular, but I feel confident the advantages arising from them will be much greater than the disadvantages.

What I am about to do will arouse loyal feeling throughout the Province at a moment when it is of inestimable importance.

Colonel Foster will tell you that the detachment you have desired to have from Penetanguishene is at your service. I shall be anxious to hear from you on the subject of the removal of the 24th from Upper Canada, and

Lieut.-general Sir John Colborne, K.C.B.
&c. &c. &c.I remain, &c.
(signed) F. B. Head.

—No. 61.—

(No. 124.)

No. 61.

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
18 November 1837.EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *F. B. Head*, Baronet,
Lord *Glenelg*, dated Toronto, 18 November 1837.

BEING sensible that your Lordship will be desirous to receive authentic information, not only of the general state of affairs in the Canadas, but of the particular course of policy which is being pursued in each of the Provinces, I have the honour to enclose to your Lordship a copy of a second letter which has been expressly despatched to me by Sir John Colborne, with a copy of my reply thereto.

Enclosure 1, in No. 61.

My dear Sir Francis,

Sorel, 6 November 1837.

Asto the intentions of Mr. Papineau, it is not of much importance what they may have been; the effect of his agitation, however, the Province now feels acutely; and disaffection, which has penetrated deeper than you may imagine, brings the agitator nearer his avowed object.

The sooner you put the "good men and true" of the Upper Province on their mettle, the better.

Your determination of liberating the 24th regiment will produce the best effect. Sir Colin Campbell will act on a similar principle; I believe he will call on the militia to do the military duties till reinforcements may arrive from the mother country, and send every company he can spare to Quebec from Halifax.

The alarm in this district is great and rapidly increasing; in fact, the counties between Longueuil and the upper part of the Richelieu are in a state of revolt; many persons who have distinguished themselves for their loyalty and as friends of order are menaced and compelled to join the disaffected, or permit their property to be injured; I have received several applications for protection.

The grand point and pivot is Montreal; I am endeavouring to collect there such a force as will permit the apprehensive to sleep quietly, and enable us to act with vigour when called upon by the executive government.

I have ordered the 24th regiment to proceed without delay to the Carillon and Montreal; one company, however, must be left at Fort Henry. Fifty soldiers, composing the garrison of that fort, will not in any respect take away from the effect of your plans and policy.

You incur not the least risk or responsibility in trusting to the good feeling of the province of Upper Canada; you are fully warranted in making the arrangements which you have notified to me.

The diversion or demonstration which Mr. M'Kenzie may make in Yonge-street or Alway, in the London district, will do good.

If the company of the 24th regiment, which had quitted Toronto for Kingston, had been recalled, the effect of a timid measure of that description would have been much felt in this Province.

I remain, &c.

(signed) *J. Colborne.*

I have received two offers from the Upper Province to bear down with volunteer corps upon the rebels.

Enclosure 2, in No. 61.

My dear Sir John,

Government House, Toronto, 11 November 1837.

I AM much obliged to you for the information you have been so good as to give me respecting your "wars and rumours of wars," and it is satisfactory to me that you approve of the peaceful course of policy I am adopting here.

In proportion as you may be driven to adopt forcible measures, Upper Canada should, I consider, refrain from doing so, as the moral contrast will no doubt have its effect on those who like to live in peace and quietness.

You will see in print my answer to an address from Kingston to raise a corps of volunteers; it is in fact to tell them I have no authority to sanction their request. You must not think from this that I am lukewarm in your cause, for though I intend to be slow to anger, yet I think I can assure you, that in case you should really want help, the militia of Upper Canada shall be once again round their old master.

Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, K. C. B.,
&c. &c. &c.Yours, &c.
(signed) *F. B. Head.*

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 62.

Sir C. Campbell to
Lord Glenelg,
16 December 1837.

— No. 62. —

(No. 102.)

Copy of a DESPATCH from Major-general Sir *Colin Campbell*, K. C. B., to Lord
Glenelg, dated Government House, Halifax, 16 December 1837.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship an Address which was presented to me yesterday, embodying certain resolutions that were unanimously adopted at a recent public meeting, deploring the unfortunate condition of affairs in Lower Canada, and declaring the ardent attachment of the inhabitants of this town to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and their determination to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt to dismember the British Empire. I request that your Lordship will be pleased to make known to our beloved Sovereign the loyal sentiments by which the whole people of this Province are actuated; and it will be gratifying to your Lordship to be able, at the same time, to state to Her Majesty, that the inhabitants of Halifax, with that liberality for which they are distinguished, have raised a fund for the support of the wives and children of the soldiers who are now on their march from this garrison to uphold and support her royal authority.

I have, &c.

(signed) *C. Campbell.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 62.

Encl. 1, in No. 62. To his Excellency Major-general Sir Colin Campbell, K. C. B., Lieutenant-governor of the Province of Nova Scotia, &c. &c. &c.

The ADDRESS of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the Inhabitants of Halifax.

May it please your Excellency,

THE inhabitants of the town of Halifax, deeply deploring the present unfortunate situation of affairs in Lower Canada, where a number of misguided men have been deluded into rebellion against their lawful Sovereign, at a public meeting this day convened, have with one accord declared their firm and unshaken loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and their determination to resist, by every means in their power, any attempt to dismember the British Empire, of which they are proud to consider these Provinces an integral part. Deeply sensible of the many blessings secured to the North American Colonies by the British Constitution, and thankful to Divine Providence for the peace and happiness which this Province continues to enjoy, the inhabitants of Halifax humbly beg your Excellency to convey to our beloved Sovereign the sentiments of loyalty by which they are actuated, and their confident assurance that all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in Nova Scotia are firmly resolved to maintain to the utmost of their power the connexion now so happily existing with the parent state.

The inhabitants of Halifax deeply regret the necessity which the unfortunate events in Canada have created for the departure of Her Majesty's forces from this garrison, where the conduct of both officers and men have secured them the respect and attachment of all classes of society. They are aware that the noble spirit which animates British soldiers will induce them resolutely to encounter the hardships they must endure in marching through a long and dreary wilderness at this inclement season of the year; but whilst the soldier at the call of duty spurns both danger and fatigue, the husband and the father cannot but feel deeply for those whom they are compelled to leave behind without their natural protector. To alleviate these feelings, to lessen the pang which the brave soldier must endure in parting from his wife and children, and to contribute towards their comfort, the inhabitants of Halifax have agreed to raise a fund for the relief of the wives and children of the soldiers of this garrison, whose husbands and fathers have been or shall be under the necessity of leaving them behind, when they march to uphold and support the authority of our beloved Sovereign, and to preserve the integrity of the British empire. The mode in which this object is proposed to be carried into effect will fully appear upon a reference to the resolutions unanimously adopted at the meeting, a copy whereof is herewith submitted to your Excellency.

A more numerous meeting of all classes of society has not previously assembled in this town; and as it was their unanimous feeling and belief that the sentiments of the Province generally

generally, as well as those of the town, were expressed in these resolutions, the honourable the Speaker and all the Members of the House of Assembly resident in the town, several of whom represent different parts of the Province, were associated with other gentlemen of the committee to carry the objects of the meeting into effect.

The inhabitants of Halifax unite in the prayer (which they feel will be responded from every quarter of this loyal Province) that these unhappy troubles may be soon dispelled, that peace and order may be speedily re-established, and that the people of these Provinces, prosperous and united, may ever esteem it their highest pride to have their destinies connected with the great country from which they are descended, and which has extended to them the benefits of its glorious constitution.

(signed)

*S. G. W. Archibald,*Speaker of the Assembly, and Member
for the county of Colchester.

Halifax, 15 December 1837.

Alex. Stewart, Member of Assembly for the county of Cumberland.

Joseph Howe, Member of Assembly for the county of Halifax.

James B. Uniacke, Member of Assembly for the county of Cape Breton.

William Young, Member of Assembly for the county of Inverness.

Hugh Bell and Thomas Forrester, Members for the town of Halifax.

L. O. C. Doyle, M. P. P., Isle Madame.

John N. Jeffery and Henry H. Cogswell, Members of Her Majesty's late Council.

J. W. Johnston, Solicitor-general.

S. W. Deblois.

J. Leander Starr.

J. J. Sawyer.

Enclosure 2, in No. 62.

Resolved, That the recent events which have taken place in Lower Canada, where a number of misguided men have been deluded into rebellion against their Sovereign, render it a duty in all Her Majesty's subjects, inhabiting the British Provinces of North America, publicly to declare their firm and unshaken loyalty to Her Majesty—their thankfulness to Divine Providence—for the many blessings secured to them by the British Constitution, and their firm determination to resist by every means in their power any dismemberment of the British Empire, of which this meeting is proud to consider these Provinces an integral part.

Encl. 2, in No. 62.

Resolved, That this meeting deeply regret the necessity which these unfortunate events have created for the departure of Her Majesty's forces from this garrison, where the conduct of both officers and men has secured to them the respect and attachment of all classes of society.

Resolved, That this meeting is aware that the noble spirit which animates British soldiers will induce them resolutely to encounter the hardships they must endure in marching through a long and dreary wilderness at this inclement season of the year; but while the soldier at the call of duty spurns both danger and fatigue, the husband and the father cannot but feel deeply for those whom they are compelled to leave behind, without their natural protector. To alleviate these feelings as much as possible, to lessen the pang which the brave soldier must experience in parting from his wife and children, and to contribute towards their comfort, we, Her Majesty's subjects, agree to raise a fund for the relief of the wives and children of the soldiers of this garrison, whose husbands and fathers have been, or shall be, under the necessity of leaving them behind, when they march to uphold and support the authority of our beloved Sovereign, and to preserve the integrity of the British Empire.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to collect the subscriptions of this meeting, and of all who may feel disposed to aid the benevolent object contemplated in the foregoing resolution.

Resolved, That S. Binney, E. Kenny, E. Cunard, Hugh Bell, Joseph Howe, Michael Tobin, W. M. Allan, E. Wallace, Wm. J. Starr, J. C. Allison, and W. A. Black, Esquires, be appointed a committee for the above purpose, and that W. A. Black, Esq. be appointed treasurer, to receive the sums collected by the committee.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to regulate the mode of distributing the relief intended for the wives and children who shall be left behind by the soldiers who depart from this garrison for Canada.

Resolved, That the honourable the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and the Solicitor-general, with the several gentlemen composing the last-named committee, be the members of the last-mentioned committee.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 62.

Sir C. Campbell to
Lord Glenelg,
16 December 1837.

Encl. 2, in No. 62.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare an address to his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor, embodying the substance of the foregoing resolutions, and requesting him to make known to Her Majesty the sentiments of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in Nova Scotia, as expressed by this meeting.

Resolved, That the Honourable the Speaker and the members of the House of Assembly, resident in Halifax, with the Solicitor-general, the Hon. T. N. Jeffery, S. W. Deblois, Esq., J. Leander Starr, Esq., the Hon. H. H. Cogswell, and the Chairman of this meeting, be a committee to carry into effect the last resolution.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to wait upon the Commandant of this garrison with a copy of the foregoing resolutions, and request that he will make the same known to the commanding officers of the several corps which have left or may leave this garrison for Canada, so that they may be communicated to the officers and men under their command.

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting, J. Leander Starr, Esq., William Young, Esq., the Solicitor-general, and Hugh Bell, Esq., be the committee under the last preceding resolution.

(signed) *J. J. Sawyer,*

Halifax, 15 December 1837.

Chairman.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

— No. 63. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Major-general Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.H., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick, 5 December 1837.

NEW
BRUNSWICK.

No. 63.

Sir J. Harvey to
Lord Glenelg,
5 December 1837.

I SHALL have no hesitation in committing the protection of this Province to its militia, until the general officer commanding in Nova Scotia may have it in his power to send us a detachment of Her Majesty's troops.

Feelings of the most ardent loyalty are every where expressed, and offers of voluntary service are daily being tendered to me. With a view to take advantage of this state of feeling, it is my intention immediately to call the Provincial Legislature together, and propose to them to authorize not only the calling out of a considerable body of militia for service within the Province, but also the embodying of one or more battalions to be employed in aid of their loyal fellow-subjects in the province of Lower Canada, propositions which will, I am convinced, be adopted by acclamation.

Wednesday morning, 6 Decmber

P. S.—From the offers of service already made to me by the militia of this Province, I do not doubt that I could carry any number of men, from 1 to 5,000, to assist in the defence and preservation of Lower Canada to Her Majesty, until succours could arrive from England, should affairs in that Province render such a measure necessary.

(signed) *J. H.*

— No. 64. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Major-general Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.H., to Lord *Glenelg*, dated Government House, Fredericton, 8 December 1837.

No. 64.

Sir J. Harvey to
Lord Glenelg,
8 December 1837.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that at a meeting of the Executive Council held this day, a Proclamation was ordered to be issued, convening the Legislature for the despatch of business on the 28th instant, the earliest day at which it was considered practicable to bring them together. My objects in calling them together are to obtain from the representatives of the people what I well know will be given by acclamation, such an expression of public opinion, as respects the state of affairs in Lower Canada, as may unequivocally prove to the malcontents in that Province the sound and healthy state of public feeling in this, and the ardent loyalty and attachment to British connexion by which its universal population are animated. I also shall require a legislative authority to enable me to carry the militia force of this Province beyond its limits, in aid of Her Majesty's loyal subjects in Lower Canada, in the event of such aid being found necessary.

Enclosure in No 64.

(By Authority.)

By his Excellency Major-general Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.H. and C.B., Lieutenant-governor and Commander-in-chief of the Province of New Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.

J. HARVEY, Lieutenant-governor.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Province stands prorogued to Tuesday the 19th day of December instant, and it is highly expedient, for divers weighty considerations, arising out of the state of affairs in Lower Canada, that the said General Assembly should meet at an early period, I do therefore hereby summon the said General Assembly to meet at Fredericton on Thursday the 28th day of December instant, for the despatch of business.

Encl. in No. 64.

Given under my hand and seal, at Fredericton, the eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, and in the first year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command,
(signed) *W. F. Odell.*