

LOWER CANADA
AND
UPPER CANADA.

FURTHER
COPIES OR EXTRACTS

OF

CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

AFFAIRS OF LOWER CANADA
AND
UPPER CANADA.

(In continuation of Papers presented to Parliament on the
23d December 1837, No. 72, and the 16th & 29th
January 1838, Nos. 80 & 99.)

[Presented by Her Majesty's Command.]

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
2 February 1838.

TELETYPE 2/51

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S C H E D U L E.

L O W E R C A N A D A.

- No. 1.—Copy of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 23 December 1837 (seven Enclosures) - - - p. 3
- No. 2.—Extract of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 28 December 1837 - - - - - p. 11
- No. 3.—Extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant-general Sir John Colborne, G. C. B., to Major-general Lord Fitzroy Somerset, K. C. B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 2 January 1838 - - - - - p. 12

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

- No. 4.—Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-governor Sir F. B. Head, Bart., to Lord Glenelg, dated Toronto, 28 December 1837 (two Enclosures) - - - p. 15

LOWER CANADA.

—No. 1.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg.

No. 1.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Vide Papers relative
to the Affairs of
Canada, presented
to Parliament
16 January 1838,
page 14.

My Lord,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 23 December 1837.

IN my Despatch of the 6th instant, No. 130, I informed your Lordship of Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall's safe return to Montreal on the 20th ultimo, and that Colonel Gore, who had been a second time despatched to make another attack on St. Denis, if necessary, had passed unopposed through that place and St. Charles on his way to St. Hyacinthe, where it was reported the rebels had collected.

I have now the honour to acquaint you, in continuation, that this report proved unfounded, and that Colonel Gore entered St. Hyacinthe on the 4th instant, without opposition, or without having succeeded in securing (which was one of the objects of his mission) any of the rebel leaders; and after leaving a part of his force in St. Denis and St. Charles, returned with the remainder to Montreal on the 7th, bringing in the five wounded soldiers left behind on his former expedition, and the body of Lieutenant Weir, which was found concealed in the waters of the Richelieu. It now appears that, when the first attack was made on St. Denis, this young officer, who, from taking a wrong route, had been captured by the rebels, was sent off by them in a waggon to St. Charles, closely pinioned, and in charge of three or four of their party, who inhumanly murdered him on the road. This tragical event, and another deliberate and unprovoked murder committed a short time afterwards near St. John's by some of the insurgents, upon a loyal Canadian named Chartrand, on account, it is supposed, of his having joined one of the volunteer corps, have excited a great sensation in the public mind, and I did not hesitate to issue proclamations, offering a reward of 500*l.* for the apprehension of the murderers of Lieutenant Weir, and of 300 *l.* for the apprehension of those implicated in the murder of Chartrand. I am happy to add, that the persons believed to have been principally concerned in both these atrocities are now secured in the Montreal gaol.

After the complete dispersion of the insurgents in the counties on the banks of the Richelieu, their leaders betook themselves to the United States. One of them, however, Wolfred Nelson, who commanded at St. Denis, was captured near the lines by a small party of the Missiskoui volunteers, and is now in gaol at Montreal. Others reached the States, where they have been in some degree successful in exciting in favour of the rebel cause the sympathy of a portion of the lower classes of the inhabitants of the State of Vermont, and obtaining assistance in warlike supplies. A body of about 200 who had crossed over to Swanton in that State from the county of Acadie and its neighbourhood, for the purpose of joining their leaders and procuring arms and ammunition, were encountered on their return on the night of the 6th instant, near the village of Philipsburg, in the county of Missiskoui, by a party of loyal volunteers under the immediate command of Captain O. J. Kemp, who had but an hour or two previous received a supply of arms which had been sent from Montreal for distribution, and after an engagement of about 10 minutes, the rebels were forced to retreat over the lines, with the loss of one killed, five prisoners, two pieces of cannon, 70 muskets, two standards, and a small quantity of ammunition, and without any casualty on the part of the volunteers. Among the wounded, the number of which is not known, were the two leaders, Gagnon and R. S. M. Bouchette, the former of whom has since died of his wounds in the States, and the latter, who was taken prisoner, is now in the Montreal gaol. This was really a spirited affair on the part of the volunteers, who turned out on the shortest notice, and almost unprepared, to attack the rebels, with a zeal and determination that cannot fail to produce a most salutary impression on both sides of the lines.

I now proceed to inform your Lordship of the military operations that have taken place in the county of the Two Mountains, where, as mentioned in my despatch of the 6th instant, the rebels were understood to have intrenched themselves in force, and where the spirit of disaffection, accompanied by acts of out-

No. 1.
Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

rage against the peaceable inhabitants, first broke out, and has all along displayed itself with the greatest violence.

On the 10th instant, a small detachment, consisting of two companies of the 32d regiment, and a few of the Royal Artillery, with one gun, was pushed forward to St. Martin, on Isle Jesus, for the purpose of securing the bridge, by which it would be necessary to cross from the Island of Montreal in order to reach the fortified villages of St. Eustache and St. Benoit, the latter situated in that part of the county of the Two Mountains called the "Grand Brulé." On the morning of the 13th the force destined for the expedition left Montreal for St. Eustache, under the immediate command of Sir John Colborne, consisting, besides the detachment already posted at St. Martin, of the royal regiment under Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall; the 32d, under the Honourable Colonel Maitland; the 83d, under the Honourable Lieutenant-colonel Dundas; a portion of the Royal Artillery, with six guns, under Major Jackson, and a number of volunteers, both horse and foot; in all about 1,300 men. On the 14th they crossed the river Ottawa, from Isle Jesus to the mainland, about three miles below St. Eustache, and, after having been fired upon in their approach, invested that village about mid-day. Many of the rebels made their escape on the appearance of the troops, among whom was the supposed Commander-in-chief Girod; but others, to the number, as far as it can be ascertained, of about 400, under the command of Dr. Chenier, obstinately defended themselves in the church and adjoining buildings, which they had barricaded, and from which, after their defences had been destroyed by the artillery, they were driven in about an hour. The church and buildings took fire and were burnt, together with several houses in the village belonging to notorious rebels. The number killed amounted, at the lowest computation, to 100, and 120 were taken prisoners. The loss, on the part of the troops, was one killed and three or four wounded.

The principal leaders in this part of the country were Dr. Chenier, Amury Girod, an alien, W. H. Scott and J. J. Girouard, Members of Parliament, and Mr. Etienne Chartier, a priest and curé of St. Benoit; of these, the two latter are still at large; Chenier was killed in the church at St. Eustache; Scott has since been arrested while attempting to escape, and lodged in the Montreal gaol; and Girod, when on the point of being captured by a party of cavalry despatched for the purpose, shot himself in a house where he had taken refuge. On his body being brought to Montreal, an inquest was held on it, and a verdict returned of "Suicide whilst flying from justice as a rebel."

On the following morning, Friday, the 15th, the troops left St. Eustache for St. Benoit, where it had all along been understood the greatest preparations for resistance had been made, and arrived there shortly after mid-day, unopposed, having on their march been met by a deputation of Canadians, who announced the flight of their leaders, and the anxiety of those remaining in the village to lay down their arms and to surrender unconditionally. If they had not taken this step, the loss of life must have been very severe, as they were completely hemmed in, a force under Major Townshend, consisting of a part of the 24th regiment and a party of volunteers, having, as a combined movement, marched from Carrillon in the opposite direction, and arrived at St. Benoit shortly after Sir John entered it. During the brief stay of the troops at that place, from 150 to 200 individuals surrendered themselves with their arms, and were discharged, in pursuance of a proclamation issued by Sir John Colborne immediately after the affair at St. Eustache, calling upon the *habitans* to come in and lay down their arms, and assuring those who should obey, provided they were not especially implicated in the graver crimes of insurrection, of a free pardon. I regret to add, that this village suffered severely by fire, but whether from design or accident I am not yet informed. The exasperation of the settlers of British origin in the neighbourhood was, I understand, very great, in consequence of the severities they had previously experienced at the hands of the other inhabitants of the parish, and it is not improbable that the desire of retaliation may have led to this destruction of property. It was not the work of the troops.

The following day, the 16th, Sir John Colborne and his staff returned to Montreal with the Volunteer Cavalry. The 32d regiment, under the Hon. Lieutenant-colonel Maitland, marched to the village of St. Scholastique, and were met on their arrival by about 300 persons with flags of truce, who gave themselves up, with about 50 stand of arms. On entering this village, several groups of *habitans* were seen assembled from different parts of the parish to the number

of 500 or 600, who received the troops with frequent cheers for the Queen. Colonel Maitland then proceeded with his regiment to the village of St. Thérèse, unopposed, and reports that his march thither was attended with the best effects, the appearance of the troops striking terror among the ill-disposed, while it gave confidence to the loyal inhabitants who had been pillaged and driven from their properties, and who were now met joyfully returning in all directions to their homes. On the 19th the Colonel re-entered Montreal, where the remainder of the expedition had arrived two days before, the detachment under Major Townshend having returned to Carrillon. Thus have the measures adopted for putting down this reckless revolt been crowned with entire success. Wherever an armed body has shown itself it has been completely dispersed; the principal instigators and leaders have been killed, taken or forced into exile; there is no longer a head, concert or organization amongst the deluded and betrayed *habitans*; all the newspaper organs of revolution in the province, the "Vindicator," "Minerve," and "Liberal," are no longer in existence, having ceased to appear about the commencement of the present troubles; and in the short space of a month, a rebellion, which, at first, wore so threatening an aspect, has, with much less loss of life than could be expected, been effectually put down. It will, however, still be incumbent on the executive government to maintain for some time longer a guarded and vigilant attitude.

Of Mr. Papineau's movements or place of refuge nothing is known; and of the 20 other individuals who have been most conspicuous in the late insurrection, four have been killed,—Ovide Perrault, M. P. P., Julien Gagnon, J. O. Chenier and Amury Girod; eight are in prison,—Wolfred Nelson, W. H. Scott, M. P. P., Desrivères, F. Tavernier, R. S. M. Bouchette, G. P. de Boucherville, A. Ouimet and the Rev. Mr. Blanchette, curé of St. Charles; and the remaining nine, mentioned in the margin, are supposed to be now in the United States. The total number of prisoners in custody on charges of high treason or sedition amounts to 169.

Loyal addresses are daily pouring in upon me from the French Canadian population in all parts of the province, expressing their fidelity to the Queen and their attachment to British connexion, and strongly reprobating the selfish ambition and treasonable designs which have thus ruthlessly involved one of the fairest portions of the country in all the horrors of civil war. These addresses are too numerous to be all forwarded to your Lordship, but I transmit three, two at the request of the memorialists, and the other, as it proceeded from a large and influential portion of the French Canadian inhabitants of the city of Montreal. I also enclose my answers to each.

Although the feeling among the lower orders on the borders of the neighbouring states has, by the most artful and unfounded misrepresentations, been strongly excited in favour of the late rebellion, the more respectable and well-informed classes of society and the public authorities have discountenanced it. The governor of Vermont, on an address from several of the inhabitants of that State, issued on the 13th instant a proclamation cautioning his fellow-citizens, with reference to occurrences in this province, against all acts that might subject them to the penalties of the law, or in anywise compromise the Government; and I am informed, though not yet officially, that the president, whose attention I had requested our minister at Washington to call to the subject, has publicly expressed his determination faithfully to discharge, as far as his power extends, all the obligations due in such circumstances from the Government under his direction, and especially that which requires that there should be no interference with the domestic disputes of friendly nations. He has accordingly instructed the public authorities of the frontier states to be attentive to all movements of a hostile character contemplated or attempted within their districts, and to prosecute without discrimination all violaters of those laws of the United States which have been enacted to preserve peace with foreign powers, and to fulfil the obligations of treaties with them. In order to prevent, as far as I can, any ground of complaint against ourselves, I also have issued a proclamation dated the 20th instant, strictly enjoining Her Majesty's subjects to abstain from the commission of all acts inconsistent with the friendly relations subsisting between the Governments of Great Britain and the United States; this was only a measure of precaution, for I am happy to say that I have heard of no instance of aggression having been committed upon the citizens or territory of the United States.

E. B. O'Callaghan,
M. P. P.
C. H. O. Côte, do.
A. Jobin, do.
F. E. Rodier, do.
J. J. Girouard, do.
J. T. Drolet, do.
Rev. Mr. Chartier,
curé of St. Benoit.
L. Duvernay.
T. S. Brown.

Enclosure, No. 1,
Laprairie, 8 Dec.
1837.

Enclosure, No. 2,
St. Vincent de Paul,
12 Dec. 1837.

Enclosure, No. 3,
Montreal, 4 Dec.
1837.

Enclosure, No. 4.

Enclosure, No. 5.

Enclosure, No. 6.

No. 1.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Your Lordship will, I am sure, learn with as much satisfaction as I experience in mentioning the fact, that the promulgation of martial law in the district of Montreal has as yet been productive only of acts of lenity and mercy: not a single individual has suffered or been molested under it in any way, but 112 of the deluded *habitans* who had been taken in arms have been restored to liberty. This unexpected act of grace conferred in the midst of the rebellion, while it marks the humane disposition of the Government, proclaims at the same time its consciousness of strength and security, will probably produce tranquillizing effects in the hitherto disturbed sections of the country, and give the best answer to the false statements that have most industriously been circulated in the adjoining States, of the cruelty and oppression alleged to have been practised against the insurgents and the Canadians generally.

V. Tétu.
A. Berthelot.
H. S. Huot.
L. Méthot.
A. C. Taschereau.
P. M. Bardy.
L. T. Besserer.
L. Leslie.
L. H. Lafontaine.
A. Godbout.
J. F. De Blois.
A. N. Morin.
J. A. Taschereau.
H. Dubord,

I have recently received an address, dated the 5th instant, from the members of the House of Assembly, whose names are mentioned in the margin, urging me immediately to convoke the Provincial Parliament, as the only efficacious remedy, in their opinion, for the re-establishment of peace and harmony in the country; but as this application expressed the individual opinions of only 14 of the 90 members of the House, and as I did not conceive on general grounds that such a course of proceeding would, under existing circumstances, be either prudent or advisable, I declined to adopt it. Indeed it would have been a virtual disfranchisement, for the session, of several counties whose members are either in gaol or fugitives, under the charge of high treason, and for the apprehension of many of whom a reward has been offered. Besides any measures adopted by the local legislature in the present position of affairs would probably hereafter be considered as the result of a constraint produced by recent events, an impression that could not fail to destroy in the public mind those feelings of confidence and respect which the proceedings of a legislative body ought at all times to command.

The energy and activity displayed by the troops, the numerous offers of service from large portions of the population in various parts of the province, to enrol themselves in volunteer corps for the defence of the Government, the discomfiture of the rebellious faction in Upper Canada, the favourable disposition of the Roman Catholic clergy, encouraged and strengthened by a recent pastoral letter of the Bishop of Quebec, which was read on the 19th instant in all the churches of his diocese, and a copy of which is enclosed,—all combine to assure me that no further organized attempt is likely to be made to interrupt the public tranquillity.

Enclosure, No. 7,
11 December 1837.

In conclusion, I may mention that, with the advice of the executive council, I issued, on the 21st instant, a commission, empowering certain persons in different parts of the province, to tender and administer the oath of allegiance to Her Majesty's subjects therein; that the 43d and 85th regiments are daily expected in Quebec, having left New Brunswick about the 11th instant, and that this reinforcement, with the volunteer force now under arms, will confirm the feelings of security and freedom from apprehension that have lately begun to spring up throughout the province.

I have, &c.

(signed) Gosford.

Enclosure 1, in No. 1.

LOYAL ADDRESS from the Parish of *Laprairie*.

À son Excellence le très Honorable *Archibald* Comte de *Gosford*, &c. &c. &c.

Qu'il plaise à votre Excellence,

Enclosure 1, in
No. 1.

Nous fidèles et loyaux sujets Canadiens d'origine française, residant dans la paroisse de *Laprairie*, demandons la permission de nous approcher respectueusement de votre Excellence, pour lui exprimer d'une manière libre, franche, candide et sincère, notre fidélité et notre attachement inviolables au Gouvernement de notre très-gracieuse Dame et Souveraine Reine *Victoria*.

Des hommes qu'une longue habitude de confiance, nous avaient fait penser devoir être les amis du pays, se sont tout à coup démasqués à nos yeux, ils viennent de prouver que l'ambition et la trahison étaient leurs seuls mobiles. Malheureusement ils ont séduit, aveuglé, entraîné, obligé même plusieurs de nos frères à s'engager dans une lutte paracide, et le sang a coulé, et la guerre civile a désolé quelques parties d'un territoire sur lequel avait toujours régné la plus profonde paix.

Nous

Nous gémissons sur le sort qui attend les coupables ; moins par compassion pour une punition qu'ils ont justement mérité que parcequ'ils ont imprimé une tache sur notre origine, et que parcequ'ils ont compromis les libertés dont nous jouissons, si nous n'avions le bonheur de vivre sous un Gouvernement paternel, qui ne frappe qu'à regret et qui pardonne l'erreur.

Nous supplions votre Excellence de daigner mettre au pied de Sa très-gracieuse Majesté notre Souveraine Dame la Reine Victoria, l'expression de notre reconnaissance pour le bienfait que ses predecesseurs et elle-même n'ont cessé de repandre sur cette partie de leurs dominations.

Il nous est impossible de terminer sans exprimer à votre Excellence les sentimens d'admiration que nous ressentons pour tous les actes de son administration qui demontrent une bienveillance, une libéralité, une magnanimité qu'il est rare de rencontrer dans un homme placé au milieu des circonstances difficiles qui se sont présentées. Votre Excellence a prouvé qu'on peut mettre d'accord les devoirs les plus impérieux avec l'humanité la plus étendue, et pour nous servir de l'une des belles expressions de la proclamation, que nous devons à sa sagesse éclairée, nous disons, que nous sommes prêts à nous précipiter en avant, comme un seul homme, afin de prouver notre gratitude pour les bienfaits dont nous jouissons.

Paroisse de Laprairie, le 8 Décembre 1837.

(Signed by the Rev. J. B. Boucher and 230 inhabitants.)

Enclosure 2, in No. 1.

LOYAL ADDRESS from the Parish of *St. Vincent de Paul*, in the County of *Terrebonne*.

À son Excellence le très Honorable *Archibald* Comte de *Gosford*, Baron *Worlingham*, de Beccles, dans le Comté de *Suffolk*, Capitaine-Général et Gouverneur-en-Chèf dans et sur les Provinces du Haut et du Bas Canada, &c. &c. &c.

Qu'il plaise à votre Excellence,

Nous, soussignés, les fidèles et loyaux sujets de Sa Majesté la Reine Victoria, habitans de la paroisse de *St. Vincent de Paul*, dans la seigneurie de l'île *Jésus*, comté de *Terrebonne*, district de *Montréal*, prenons la liberté d'approcher respectueusement de votre Excellence, pour lui exprimer notre fidélité et notre loyauté envers notre très-gracieuse Reine, et notre attachement sincère aux liens qui unissent cette province avec l'Empire Britannique. Nous déplorons les scènes criminelles et désastreuses qui viennent de désoler ce pays naguère si heureux, et nous prions votre Excellence d'avoir une entière confiance dans la ferme détermination où nous sommes de faire tous nos efforts pour seconder les vues bien veillantes et paternelles de votre Excellence, exprimées dans la proclamation qu'elle vient d'emaner, pour rappeler au devoir nos compatriotes égarés, pour maintenir la tranquillité publique, et pour faire régner la paix, l'union, l'harmonie et la concorde entre toutes les classes des sujets de Sa Majesté en ce pays, sans distinction d'origine ; et nous sommes, comme nous le serons toujours, prêts à nous montrer les plus zélés défenseurs du gouvernement de notre très-gracieuse Souveraine. Nous prions en outre votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire parvenir aux pieds du trône, cette expression de nos sentimens envers le gouvernement de Sa Majesté.

(Signed by 453 individuals.)

St. Vincent de Paul, ce 12 Decembre 1837.

Enclosure 3, in No. 1.

LOYAL ADDRESS from a Number of French Canadians in the City of *Montreal*.

À son Excellence le très Hon. *Archibald* Comte de *Gosford*, Baron *Worlingham*, de Beccles, dans le Comté de *Suffolk*, Capitaine-Général et Gouverneur-en-Chèf dans et pour les Provinces du Bas Canada, &c. &c. &c.

Qu'il plaise à votre Excellence,

Nous, loyaux sujets Canadiens d'origine française, residant en la cité de *Montréal*, demandons la permission de nous approcher respectueusement de votre Excellence, pour lui exprimer d'une manière franche et sincère notre fidélité et notre attachement inviolables au gouvernement de notre très-gracieuse Souveraine.

Nous serions indignes de la confiance que le gouvernement de Sa Majesté a toujours montré envers ses loyaux sujets Canadiens, si nous ne nous empressions de venir à son secours, dans un moment surtout où des troubles d'une nature désastreuse et l'esprit d'in-subordination et de révolte se manifestent sur divers points de ce district et mettent le gouvernement dans un grand danger.

Des hommes éclairés, sans doute, qui jusqu'à present avaient soin de la confiance d'une grande partie de notre population, et qui faussement s'offraient à elle comme des réformateurs justes et sincères, ont tout-à-coup abandonné la ligne de conduite qu'ils avaient suivie

No. 1.
Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Enclosure 1, in
No. 1.

Enclosure 2, in
No. 1.

Enclosure 3, in
No. 1.

No. 1.
Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Enclosure 3, in
No. 1.

jusqu'à ce jour; au lieu d'attendre du Gouvernement Britannique la réforme de certains griefs dont ils se plaignaient depuis plusieurs années, que ce Gouvernement avait reconnu comme justes, et à une partie desquels il a déjà remédié; ils ont fait publiquement appel aux armes pour l'intimider et lui ravir par la force les concessions qu'il avait promis de nous faire. Ils se sont servis de leur influence pour égarer une partie du peuple et l'aveugler sur ses plus grands intérêts; ils ont perverti la morale des habitans de nos compagnes, naguères si loyaux et si paisibles, au point de les entraîner dans les excès les plus coupables dans les crimes des brigandages les plus revoltans, et finalement dans une rébellion ouverte à l'autorité légitime.

Nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien être assurée que c'est avec le plus profond et le plus douloureux regret que nous voyons cet état de choses allarmant, triste mais inevitable résultat des maximes pernicieuses et subversives que ces hommes mal-intentionnés et pervers ont hautement professées.

Nous prions votre Excellence de croire que nous serons toujours reconnoissans des bienfaits dont la population française de cette province a toujours joui sous le Gouvernement paternel de l'Empire Britannique, par la protection accordée à sa religion, à sa langue, à ses loix et à ses institutions, et que mus par les sentimens d'honneur et de loyauté dont nous avons hérité de nos pères, nous persévererons comme nous l'avons toujours fait à maintenir indissolubles les liens qui nous unissent si étroitement et si avantageusement à la mère patrie.

Nous ferons tous nos efforts pour seconder les vues bien veillantes et paternelles de votre Excellence, exprimées dans la proclamation qu'elle vient d'émaner, pour rappeler au devoir nos compatriotes égarés, et pour rétablir la paix et l'union dans toutes les classes des sujets de Sa Majesté en ce pays sans distinction d'origine. Et nous sommes comme nous le serons toujours prêts à nous montrer les plus zélés défenseurs du Gouvernement de notre très-gracieuse Souveraine.

(Signed by Twelve hundred and eighty-one.)

Montreal, 4 Dec. 1837.

Enclosure 4, in No. 1.

ANSWER to Loyal Address from the Parish of *Laprairie*.

Sir,

Castle St. Lewis, Quebec, 15 December 1837.

Enclosure 4, in
No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your letter of the 10th instant, enclosing a loyal address from 228 of Her Majesty's subjects of French origin, residing in the parish of Laprairie, and to acquaint you that, having immediately submitted the same to the Governor-in-chief, his Excellency has commanded me to convey through you to the signers thereof the lively satisfaction he has experienced at receiving this assurance of their inviolable fidelity and attachment to the Government of our most Gracious Sovereign.

It is matter of consolation to his Excellency to learn from the memorialists, that they now view in its true colours the baneful and criminal conduct of those evil-disposed men by whom they in common, with a large position of their fellow-subjects, have been so cruelly and fatally deceived, and who, by abusing the influence they had acquired over the minds of their confiding countrymen, have reduced a large portion of this hitherto peaceful and happy province to its present deplorable and melancholy situation. His Excellency receives the present address as a pledge on the part of those who concur in it, that they will use their utmost endeavours to promote the restoration of public tranquillity, and diligently inculcate that respectful obedience to the laws and constituted authorities which is the true foundation of all social order.

Under this impression, his Excellency has directed me to assure the memorialists that he will with pleasure communicate, as requested, their sentiments to our most Gracious Queen, by transmitting their address to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

In conclusion, his Excellency desires me to express his best thanks for that portion of the address which alludes to him personally, feeling as he does that all the acts of his administration have been dictated by a sincere desire to promote the peace, happiness and prosperity of every part of the province under his immediate government.

I have, &c.

(signed) S. Walcott, Civil Secretary.

Enclosure 5, in No. 1.

ANSWER to Loyal Address from the Parish of *St. Vincent de Paul*, in the County of *Terrebonne*.

Reverend Sir,

Castle St. Lewis, Quebec, 19 December 1837.

Enclosure 5, in
No. 1.

HAVING laid before the Governor-in-chief the address from a number of inhabitants of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, in the county of Terrebonne, which I yesterday received through you for that purpose, I have been directed by his Excellency to request you to acquaint

acquaint those who concurred in the address, that he receives with great satisfaction this public declaration of their loyalty to our most Gracious Queen, and of their sincere attachment to the union subsisting between this province and the parent state.

No one, his Excellency desires me to assure the memorialists, deplors more than he does the distressing scenes that have resulted from the criminal proceedings of ambitious and designing men, who have not hesitated recklessly to involve a portion of this hitherto happy country in the desolation and sufferings inseparable from civil war.

His Excellency accepts with confidence the assurance of the firm determination of the memorialists to second his endeavours for the restoration of the blessings of peace and harmony, and of their readiness at all times zealously to defend the Government of our most Gracious Sovereign, to the foot of whose Throne he will not fail to convey, as they request, the expression of their loyal sentiments on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(signed) S. Walcott, Civil Secretary.

No. 1.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Enclosure 5, in
No. 1.

Enclosure 6, in No. 1.

ANSWER to Loyal Address from the French Canadians in the City of *Montreal*.

Gentlemen,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 13 December 1837.

I THIS day had the honour to receive your letter of the 9th instant, enclosing the resolutions passed on the 4th at a meeting of the citizens of *Montreal*, of French origin, together with the very numerous signed address to the Governor-in-chief, which was unanimously adopted at that meeting; and having submitted the same to his Excellency, he has commanded me to request that you would be good enough to signify to the signers of this address that it has afforded him a very lively satisfaction to receive at this conjuncture from the citizens of French origin in *Montreal* the frank expression of gratitude, loyalty and attachment to the Government of Great Britain which it contains.

His Excellency has also directed me to add, that it is his intention at an early opportunity to transmit the proceedings of the meeting to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in order that the same may be laid at the foot of the Throne, as a testimony that a large and influential portion of the citizens, of French origin, in the opulent and populous city of *Montreal*, disavow and discountenance the disorganizing principles and revolutionary designs of men who have abused the confidence placed in them by their fellow-citizens, to lure them on to acts of the most criminal dye, rapine, murder and rebellion.

His Excellency relies with confidence upon the assurances of those who have signed the address, that they will second with all their influence his efforts to restore tranquillity to the country, and harmony between all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in the province; and he trusts that they will individually and actively follow up the laudable intentions they have thus collectively manifested, by using all the means in their power to induce the deluded peasantry to return to their homes and peaceful occupations, and by a prompt submission to the laws, and justify a continuance of the mild and parental policy of a Government under whose protection and fostering care they have for so long a period possessed the unmolested enjoyment of their religion, their language and their institutions.

The Hon. P. De Rocheblave and
P. Lacombe, Esq., *Montreal*.

I have, &c.

(signed) Walcott.

Enclosure 6, in
No. 1.

Enclosure 7, in No. 1.

JOSEPH SIGNAY,

Par la miséricorde de Dieu et la grace du St. Siège Apostolique, Evêque de Québec,
&c. &c. &c.

Au Clergé et aux Fidèles de notre diocèse, Salut et Bénédiction en Notre-Seigneur.

S'IL est des circonstances, nos très-chers frères, où nous sommes obligé d'élever la voix, pour rappeler aux fidèles confiés à notre sollicitude leurs devoirs à l'égard de la puissance civile, c'est surtout à la suite des malheureux événements qui viennent de se passer dans le district de *Montréal*, et qui sont aujourd'hui le sujet de la plus amère affliction pour les habitans de cette Province.

Vous le savez, N. T. C. F., des hommes aveuglés par un patriotisme malentendu se sont efforcés de faire prévaloir en ce pays des doctrines propres à favoriser l'insubordination. Eh bien! ces funestes doctrines ont produit leurs fruits: un nombre considérable de nos concitoyens qui les avaient adoptées sans en prévoir les déplorables résultats, sont déjà devenus les victimes de leur trop confiante crédulité.

Quelque pénible qu'il soit à notre cœur de vous remettre devant les yeux des faits si propres à vous contrister, nous ne pouvons cependant nous en dispenser, parce qu'ils nous fournissent l'occasion de vous prémunir contre les doctrines perverses qui les ont provoquées.

Enclosure 7, in
No. 1.

No. 1.
Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg.
23 December 1837.

Enclosure 7, in
No. 1.

Sans doute, N. T. C. F., et nous éprouvons une vive consolation à le reconnaître, sans doute que ces mêmes doctrines n'ont eu qu'un bien petit nombre de partisans dans ce diocèse, et que la très-grande majorité s'est toujours montrée loyal et fidèle au gouvernement. Mais ce petit nombre fait partie du troupeau que la Divine Providence nous a chargé d'instruire; nous en rendrons compte au souverain pasteur des âmes; et ce serait manquer essentiellement à notre devoir que de ne pas faire ce qui dépend de nous pour le désabuser et le ramener de son égarement.

Il n'est pas nécessaire d'entrer ici dans un long détail des autorités sur lesquelles est fondée cette soumission que tout fidèle doit à la puissance établie. Les principes de notre sainte religion sont là-dessus si clairs et si précis qu'aucun catholique, qui veut demeurer tel, ne peut les révoquer en doute. Qu'il vous suffise de savoir, N. T. C. F., que l'église, conduite par l'Esprit Saint, et s'appuyant des leçons aussi bien que des exemples de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ et de ses apôtres, n'a cessé d'enseigner à ses enfants *qu'il faut rendre à César ce qui est à César* (Marc, xii. 17.); *que tous doivent être soumis aux puissances supérieures* qui les régissent civilement (Rom. xiii.), *et cela non pas par la crainte des suites de la rébellion, mais par un devoir indispensable de conscience* (Ibid. 5.); *que c'est résister à Dieu même que de résister aux puissances, et s'exposer à tout le poids de la vengeance céleste. Qui autem resistunt ipsi sibi damnationem acquirunt...* (Ibid.); et comme le dit encore le bienheureux apôtre St. Pierre, *il faut toujours demeurer soumis à l'autorité publique*, sous quelque forme qu'elle se présente (1 Pet. ii. 13, 14): *Subjecti igitur estote omni humanae creaturae, sive regi... sive ducibus...*, parce que c'est la règle immuable de la Providence, la volonté expresse de Dieu: *Quia sic est voluntas Dei* (Ibid. 15).

Après ces déclarations si formelles de l'écriture, auxquelles nous pourrions ajouter le témoignage de tous les Pères de l'église; que l'on vous dise que vos pasteurs, en vous recommandant la soumission aux autorités, *s'écartent de la ligne de leur devoir, et qu'ils interviennent dans des questions politiques qui ne sont pas de leur ressort*, il n'en est pas moins vrai, aux yeux de tout bon catholique, qu'ils ne font qu'enseigner une vérité de tous les temps; une vérité qui est une des principales bases de la morale chrétienne; une vérité qu'ils ne peuvent taire à leurs ouailles sans se rendre prévaricateurs.

Que, par des voies légales et constitutionnelles, on cherche à remédier aux abus dont on croit avoir raison de se plaindre, c'est un droit que nous ne prétendons contester à personne; mais que pour y parvenir l'on ait recours à l'insurrection, c'est employer un moyen, nous ne disons pas seulement inefficace, imprudent, funeste à ceux-mêmes qui en font usage, mais encore criminel aux yeux de Dieu et de notre sainte religion; c'est, sous prétexte d'éviter un mal, se jeter dans un abyme de maux irréparables; et l'expérience de tous les siècles démontre que nous n'avons rien ici qui ne soit conforme à la plus exacte vérité.

En effet, si nous parcourons les pages de l'histoire, nous ne voyons presque aucune révolution qui n'ait été la cause des plus grands désastres: le sang répandu par torrens, les familles plongées dans le deuil ou réduites à la misère par la mort violente de leurs soutiens, les propriétés dévastées, détruites ou enlevées à leurs légitimes possesseurs; ce n'est là qu'un faible tableau des malheurs enfantés par les révolutions: et nous le répétons avec larmes, ces malheurs nous venons de les voir fondre en partie sur une des plus florissantes portions de notre pays.

Ainsi, N. T. C. F., lorsque nous nous efforçons de vous convaincre de cette obligation que l'évangile nous impose à tous, d'être soumis à l'autorité, nous n'entendons pas seulement vous porter à la pratique d'un devoir prescrit par la religion, nous voulons encore vous préserver des maux dont nous venons de faire l'affligeante énumération, nous voulons assurer votre bonheur, celui de vos familles et celui de la société.

Et sur ce point vos pasteurs ne méritent-ils pas d'être écoutés? Seraient-ils les seuls qui n'auraient pas la liberté d'ouvrir la bouche pour vous éclairer sur vos véritables intérêts? Pourriez-vous croire qu'en vous engageant à une obéissance loyale, ils aient en vue de les compromettre? Non, N. T. C. F., leurs efforts constants et leurs généreux sacrifices pour avancer la prospérité du pays ne permettent pas de former un soupçon si injurieux: leur conduite dans tous les temps est une preuve sans réplique de l'affection qu'ils portent à leurs concitoyens; elle leur assure un droit incontestable à votre confiance.

Nous avons donc l'espoir que vous prêterez une oreille attentive à nos exhortations et à celles de nos dignes collaborateurs dans le saint ministère; que vous envisagerez plus sérieusement que jamais tout ce que la guerre civile entraînerait de conséquences affreuses pour notre chère patrie; et que, sans renoncer à vos privilèges politiques, vous vous attacherez à montrer, tant par vos actions que par vos paroles, que vous êtes remplis de cette loyauté et de cette fidélité au gouvernement de la Grande-Bretagne, que vos pères vous ont laissées pour héritage, et qu'ils ont plus d'une fois prouvées aux dépens même de leur vie.

Mais ce n'est pas assez, N. T. C. F., que nous vous invitons à vous tenir en garde contre tout ce qui pourrait troubler la paix dont vous avez joui jusqu'à ce jour, nous devons encore vous presser de lever vers le ciel des mains suppliantes, pour obtenir du Dieu des miséricordes qu'il daigne conserver cette heureuse paix au milieu de vous, et la rétablir dans cette partie de la Province où elle a été malheureusement troublée.

A CES CAUSES, le saint nom de Dieu invoqué, nous avons réglé et ordonné, réglons et ordonnons ce qui suit:

1°. Dans toutes les paroisses de notre diocèse il sera chanté une messe solennelle, le premier jour où on pourra commodément le faire après la publication du présent mandement. Cette messe sera conforme à l'office du jour; on y ajoutera l'oraison, *Pro quicumque necessitate*, et elle sera suivie des prières indiquées ci-après (3°).

2°. Les curés chargés de la desserte de deux paroisses célébreront cette messe dans l'une et dans l'autre à leur commodité.

3°. Dans toutes les églises et chapelles de notre diocèse où la messe se célèbre en public, chaque dimanche et fête d'obligation, immédiatement après la messe paroissiale, conventuelle ou principale, le prêtre qui l'aura célébrée, ne laissera les degrés de l'autel qu'après y avoir récité, à genoux, à haute voix, le peuple répondant, ou cinq *Pater Noster* et cinq *Ave, Maria*, ou les litanies de la Ste. Vierge. Nous espérons que ceux des fidèles qui ne pourront assister au service divin ces jours-là, feront la même prière dans leurs familles.

4°. Chaque prêtre ajoutera à la messe l'oraison ci-dessus mentionnée, *Pro quacumque necessitate*, excepté aux messes des fêtes de 1^{re} classe, aux messes solennelles des fêtes de 2^{de} classe, et à celles du dimanche des Rameaux et de la Vigile de la Pentecôte. Cette même oraison remplacera celle qui est marquée *ad libitum* dans les autres messes.

5°. Ces prières dureront jusqu'à ce qu'il soit notifié au clergé, de notre part, que le temps est venu de les discontinuer.

Sera le présent mandement publié au prône de toutes les messes paroissiales (*excepté l'article 4°*), et lu en chapitre dans les communautés religieuses, le premier jour de dimanche ou de fête d'obligation après qu'il aura été reçu.

Donné à Québec sous notre seing, le sceau de nos armes et le contre-seing de notre Secrétaire, le onze Décembre Mil-huit-cent-trente-sept.

✠ JOS. EV. DE QUEBEC.

L. + S.

Par Monseigneur,

C. F. Cazeau, Ptre. Secrétaire.

— No. 2. —

(No. 139.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, 28 December 1837.

My late Despatches will have detailed what has been going on here. Since the dispersion of the insurgents in the county of Two Mountains, all has been tranquil; and, I trust, with proper precaution and vigilance, will continue so.

The following persons have been recently lodged in Montreal gaol:— A. B. Papineau, M. P. P. for Terrebonne, and J. J. Girouard, M. P. P. for Two Mountains. A reward of 500*l.* was offered for the apprehension of Girouard; he surrendered himself to Mr. Simpson, at Coteau de Lac, after suffering much from nights of exposure in the woods. The Attorney-general mentions that he has received a letter from Messrs. Franchere, and Soupras, Marchand, Mongeon, Gizon and Knights, M. P. P., dated Highgate, in Vermont, offering to surrender themselves upon his sending them a passport, and pledging their words of honour to come in direct to Montreal. The Attorney-general had, in consequence, despatched an officer to Bedford with a letter to them, in which he holds out no promise whatever, but informs them that he had sent an officer to receive and convey them, unconditionally, to the common gaol of the district, directing the officer to treat them kindly.

— No. 3. —

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-general Sir J. Colborne, G. C. B., to Major-general Lord Fitzroy Somerset, K. C. B., dated Head Quarters, Montreal, 2 January 1838.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the copy of a letter from the Lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, in which he acquaints me that a party of Americans have taken possession of Navy Island, and are constructing works of defence on it, and inviting others to join them, with the intention of aiding the rebels who have been driven out of the province.

This island is British territory, and is north-east of Grand Island, about two miles from the confluence of the Chippewa and Niagara. I have ordered the remainder of the 24th regiment to proceed to Niagara, and part of Major Cameron's company of Artillery; they will arrive there, I hope, in a few days.

The excitement in Vermont and in the State of New York renders it necessary that

No. 1.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Enclosure 7, in
No. 1.

No. 2.

Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
28 December 1837.

No. 3.

Sir John Colborne
to Lord Fitzroy
Somerset,
2 January 1838.

No. 3.

Sir John Colborne
to Lord Fitzroy
Somerset,
2 January 1838.

that the force under my command should be constantly prepared to repel any invasion on the part of the population of the United States. I hope, however, that the failure of the rebels will have the effect of repressing the violence of the many supporters in the United States of the revolt and disturbances in Canada, and of preventing the party on Navy Island from receiving further reinforcements.

There has been no appearance of resistance to my orders in this district since my return from St. Benoit, and the measures which I have authorized for disarming the *habitans* generally have been acted on without difficulty.

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

—No. 4.—

(No. 133.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-governor Sir *F. B. Head*, Bart.,
to Lord *Glenelg*.

My Lord,

Toronto, 28 December 1837.

No. 4.
Sir *F. B. Head* to
Lord *Glenelg*,
28 December 1837.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the speech with which I have this day opened the Legislature of this province, together with copies of sundry documents,* which will explain to your Lordship, firstly, that the rebellion which has broken out here has been effectually put down, with the loss on the side of the Constitutionalsists of only one man killed; and, secondly, that an unprovoked attack has been made upon our territory by American citizens, who have succeeded in taking possession of Navy Island (which is in the Niagara river, about two miles above the Cataracts), have intrenched and garrisoned it, have planted 13 pieces of cannon upon it, and, in fact, have thus formed a camp upon our territory, to which people by hand-bills, termed "Proclamations of the Provincial Government," are publicly invited, under the promise that "300 acres of the most valuable lands in Canada, and 100 dollars in silver, will be given to each volunteer who may join the Patriot forces on Navy Island."

I have communicated these facts to his Excellency the Earl of Gosford and to Sir John Colborne, and have addressed communications to the Governor of the State of New York and to Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, copies of which I have the honour to enclose. I have stationed a militia force of about 2,000 men on the Niagara frontier, and have made all the arrangements in my power for calling out the militia of the province, in case their services should be required.

Having thus done all in my power to withstand a foreign invasion, which was never contemplated in my despatch to your Lordship, dated 18th November, I feel it my duty to recommend, contrary to the suggestions contained in that despatch, that Her Majesty's Government should afford to the Commander of the Forces every possible assistance, promptly and effectually to put down this attack by American citizens, unauthorized by their government, and in open violation of their laws.

I have, &c.

(signed) *F. B. Head*.The Lord *Glenelg*, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure

* Sir *F. B. Head*'s Speech to the Legislature, and the Proclamation signed "*W. L. Mackenzie*," are the only documents enclosed in this Despatch.

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Toronto, Thursday, 28 December 1837.

No. 4.
Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
28 December 1837.Enclosure 1, in
No. 4.

This day, at 11 o'clock, his Excellency the Lieutenant-governor proceeded in state from the Government House to the Chamber of the Honourable the Legislative Council, where, being arrived and seated on the Throne, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was sent with a message from his Excellency to the House of Assembly, commanding their attendance. The Members present being come up accordingly, his Excellency was pleased to address the two Houses with the following

SPEECH.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I HAVE deemed it necessary to convene the Legislature of Upper Canada a few days earlier than has been customary, for the purpose of communicating with you on the present state of the province; but before I draw your attention to this important subject, I cannot refrain from condoling with you on the loss which, since our last meeting, we have sustained in the demise of his late Gracious Majesty King William the Fourth, of blessed memory, whose parental attachment to the Canadas will, I feel confident, long be remembered by its inhabitants with filial gratitude and respect.

The Throne of the British empire is now adorned by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, whose youth, education, virtues and sex, endearing her to her subjects, claim their loyal protection and support.

Notwithstanding the prosperity and happiness of this province, it is with pain I inform you, that I have suddenly been called upon to suppress a rebellion, which must have appeared to the province at large of so extraordinary a character, that it is proper I should advert to its origin and progress.

With every disinclination to revive political differences of opinion, which must exist in every free country, and which no liberal man would ever be desirous to suppress, I will merely remind you, that shortly after I arrived in this province, with instructions from his late Majesty to correct whatever grievances might exist, it unavoidably became necessary that I should constitutionally appeal to the sense of the people; I did so, and they unequivocally supported me.

A few individuals, disappointed at the result, did not scruple to declare, that the people of Upper Canada had been mistaken in their verdict, which it was asserted had been obtained by improper means.

This second subject of discussion I deemed it advisable to bring plainly before the public; it was accordingly submitted to the consideration of his late Majesty and the Imperial Government, the House of Commons and the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, and by all these tribunals the question was decided against those who, with groundless slander, had assailed their Government, and who, being rapidly deserted by their original supporters, were now reduced to a very few individuals.

Finding that against cool argument they could advance nothing, they desperately determined to try an appeal to physical strength, the avowed object of which was to force Her Majesty's subjects from their allegiance, and to subvert the British Constitution under the pretext of reform.

As soon as this conspiracy became known to me, I determined that for the public good I would allow it to work its own cure, but as I felt convinced that that cure would never be admitted to be perfect if Her Majesty's troops were required to take any part in the contest, I cheerfully approved of their leaving the province, in order that the people of Upper Canada, in a state of uncontrolled independence, might be allowed another opportunity of unequivocally demonstrating whether they would support me or desert me in the determination I had evinced, "to maintain for them the British Constitution inviolate."

Besides parting with the troops, I further resolved to place in the hands of the civil portion of the community all the muskets (about (4,000) which the Government had in store, and I accordingly delivered them over to the custody of the mayor, aldermen and commonalty of the city of Toronto.

Without either soldiers or weapons to enforce my cause, I allowed the leader of the intended insurrection a full opportunity to make his intended experiment—I freely allowed him to write what he chose—say what he chose—and do what he chose; I allowed him to assemble his deluded adherents for the purpose of drill; I even allowed them, unopposed, to assemble with loaded fire-arms, and in spite of the remonstrances which, from almost every district in the province, I received from the peaceable portion of the community, I allowed him to make deliberate preparations for revolt; for I freely confess that I did under-rate the degree of audacity and cruelty which these armed insulters of the law were prepared, as events have proved, to exhibit. It did not seem to me credible that in the bosom of this peaceful country, where every one was enjoying the protection of equal laws, and reaping the fruit of his labours almost undiminished by taxes, any number of persons could be found willing to assail the lives, plunder the property of their unoffending fellow-subjects, and to attempt the destruction of a Government from which they had received nothing but good.

The ultimate object of the conspiracy was veiled under a mysterious secrecy which I had no desire to penetrate; and relying implicitly on the people, so little did I inquire

No. 4.

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
28 December 1837.Enclosure 1, in]
No. 4.

into it or impede it, that I was actually in bed and asleep, when I was awakened by a messenger, who abruptly informed me that a numerous body of armed rebels had been congregated by their leader; that the murder of a veteran officer of distinction, a settler in the province, had already been committed, and that the assailants were within an hour's march of Toronto.

The long-looked for crisis had now evidently arrived; and accordingly, defenceless and unarmed, I called upon the militia of Upper Canada to defend their Government, and then confidently awaited the result.

With an enthusiasm which it is impossible for me to describe, they instantly obeyed the summons.

Upwards of 10,000 men immediately marched towards the capital, and in the depth of a Canadian winter, with no clothes but those they stood in, without food, and, generally speaking, without arms, reformers as well as constitutionalists, nobly rushed forward to defend the revered constitution of their ancestors, although the rebel who had dared to attack it was offering to his adherents 300 acres of our land, and the plunder of our banks.

As soon as the people had organized themselves, I saw it would be necessary to make an attack; however, feeling the greatest possible reluctance at the prospect of a sanguinary conflict with the deluded subjects of Her Majesty who were opposed to me, I despatched to them two of their own party, to tell them that before any collision should take place, I parentally called upon them, as their Governor, to avoid the effusion of human blood.

The answer I received from the rebel leader was, that he would only consent that his demands should be settled by a National Convention, and that he would wait till two o'clock for my answer.

Having now, to the best of my ability, performed the religious as well as moral duty which I owed to the province, I issued a Proclamation, calling upon those who had been seduced to join in the unnatural rebellion, to return to their duty, in which case I informed them that they would find the Government of their Queen as indulgent as it was just; and having given them this last opportunity to disperse, I allowed the brave militia of Upper Canada to advance, and the result of this trial by battle was the public verdict which I had always anticipated.

The rebels, dispersed in all directions, surrendered every where at discretion; those of their leaders who were not taken prisoners, absconded to the United States; and before sunset the whole conspiracy exploded.

In the London district, a similar proof of public opinion was practically evinced. To the militia, nobly commanded by Colonel MacNab, Speaker of the House of Assembly, upwards of 300 misguided men laid down their arms—craving pardon for their guilt—asking permission to assist the loyal militia in capturing the fugitive leaders, who they declared had not only deceived, but deserted them; and the affair being thus concluded, there remained not a rebel throughout the whole province in arms!—indeed so complete was their defeat, that general orders were immediately issued by me, announcing that there was “no further occasion for the resort of militia to Toronto;” and that the militia of the Bathurst, Johnstown Ottawa and Eastern districts might march to Lower Canada, in aid of the Queen's forces.

In all the civil contests which history has been compelled to record, I conceive that there has never been a question more fairly submitted to the judgment of a free people than that which in Upper Canada has just ended in the total defeat, moral as well as physical, of the opponents of the British constitution.

The triumph has been that of reason over force—of good laws over anarchy—of bravery, fidelity and generosity on the part of the militia, over murder, arson and robbery by the rebels.

Tranquillity had returned to the land—angry passions had subsided—the political atmosphere of the province was becoming healthy after the storm which had passed over it, when, I regret to inform you, that the peace of the province was suddenly invaded from a quarter from which Her Majesty's subjects in this province had certainly never calculated upon receiving an attack.

I need not on this continent declare that the Americans are a people with whom the British empire for many years has assiduously cultivated the most friendly connexion. Our Government has looked upon them as its allies—our people have intimately connected themselves with their commerce—our capital has irrigated their land—unlimited credit has been fraternally extended to them, with that unsuspecting confidence which in the civilized world is reposed in men of character and truth—we have rejoiced in their success, and we have done all that a generous nation could do, to save them from the expense and misery of war. It is true, we were once opponents, but the hatchet of war has long been buried, and I must own I had hoped that the spirits of our mutual ancestors were sacredly guarding its tomb!!

Such are the feelings of the British people towards the Americans, and yet I regret to inform you, that in a moment of profound peace and of professed friendship, a considerable number of Americans, regardless of the crimes committed, as well as of the degraded character of the man, have sympathised with the principal rebel, who has lately absconded as a criminal from our land. I regret to inform you, that American citizens of influence and great wealth have come forward to coerce the brave and independent people of Upper Canada to change laws and institutions which they have lately, by open and almost universal suffrage, publicly declared that they prefer.

The American press has, to my astonishment, in many instances advocated this flagrant act of injustice; and such has been the popular excitement, that not only has a body of
Americans,

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
28 December 1837.

Enclosure 1, in
No. 4.

Americans, headed by American leaders, within a few days, taken possession of Navy Island (which belongs to the British empire), but a Proclamation has just been issued from this spot, declaring that the standard of liberty is planted in Canada; that a Provisional Government is established there; that a reward of 500*l.* is offered for my apprehension; that 300 acres of Her Majesty's lands will be freely bestowed by this Provincial Government upon any volunteer who shall personally assist in invading our freedom; and it is added, that "ten millions of these lands, fair and fertile, will speedily be at their disposal, with the other vast resources of a country more extensive and rich in natural treasures than the United Kingdom, or old France."

I am informed that Americans from various quarters are hastening from the interior to join this standard of avowed plunder and revolt; that cannon and arms are publicly proceeding there; and under these circumstances, it becomes my painful duty to inform you, that without having offered to the United States the smallest provocation; without having entertained the slightest previous doubt of the sincerity of American alliance, the inhabitants of this province may in a few days be called upon by me to defend their lives, their properties and their liberties, from an attack by American citizens, which, with no desire to offend, I must pronounce to be unparalleled in the history of the world.

Upon the courage and resolution of the Canadian people, I place the firmest reliance; and if this unwarrantable invasion should proceed, I know I shall not in vain require every British subject coolly to perform that duty to his country which his own pride, spirit and feelings, will spontaneously suggest.

The interference of foreigners in the domestic policy of a free country is an aggression which no nation of character can ever submit to endure (especially where a band of people, violating their own laws, our laws, as well as the sacred obligations of national amity, intrude themselves upon peaceable inhabitants, lawlessly to advocate by force of arms the practical blessings and advantages of republican institutions, which, by their own showing, have at least ended with them in anarchy and plunder); and as every country is a natural fortress to its inhabitants; as every village is a strong military position, and as every bridge and ravine can be advantageously defended, I must own that, deeply as I should lament a conflict of this nature, I entertain no feeling of anxiety for the result. The peaceful inhabitants of Upper Canada will not be left to defend their country alone, for they belong to an Empire which does not suffer its subjects to be injured with impunity; and if a national war, which it rests with the American Government to avert, should be the unhappy consequence of an intolerant invasion of our freedom, the civilized world, while it sympathises with our just cause, will view with feelings of astonishment and abhorrence this attempt of a body of American citizens treacherously to attack and plunder, in a moment of profound peace, their oldest, their most intimate, and their most natural ally.

A few days will, I trust, demonstrate that the American Government wants neither the will nor the power to control its people. If otherwise, the defensive course which the inhabitants of Upper Canada must be called upon to adopt is plain and clear.

In the meanwhile, however, it is but justice to the American nation to allow them, notwithstanding our territory has been already invaded by their citizens, the opportunity of nobly vindicating, as I firmly believe they will, the integrity of their Government and institutions; and I have to inform you that, with this peaceful object in view, I have communicated with the Governor of the State of New York, with whom I have hitherto been on the most friendly terms, as also with Her Majesty's Minister at Washington; and awaiting their replies, I have reinforced the gallant militia of the frontier by a strong corps of observation, and have made arrangements for a general call upon the militia, in case their services should unfortunately be required.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I shall direct the public accounts, and the estimate for the ensuing year, to be laid before you.

The ordinary supplies necessary for the public service will, I have no doubt, be granted; and it cannot but be expected that the late rash attempt to produce confusion in the Province will give rise to an increase in the public expenditure, and create some new claims upon the justice and bounty of the Legislature.

You will, I doubt not, consider the propriety of indemnifying any of the inhabitants of this Province who have sustained serious losses from the outrageous acts of the insurgents, and of providing pensions for the very few subjects of Her Majesty, who may have been disabled by wounds received in the defence of their laws.

Honourable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

If you were assembled under ordinary circumstances, there would be several matters relating to the improvement of the Province, to the general welfare of its inhabitants, and to the encouragement of immigration, which I should desire to submit to your consideration; but you will probably agree with me in thinking that it may be prudent to admit of your speedy return to your several districts, by forbearing as much as possible to enter at this time upon the discussion of business which can be properly postponed.

Nothing perhaps presses so earnestly for immediate consideration as the adoption of such measures as may most effectually secure the inhabitants of this Province against the recurrence of the danger to which they have lately been exposed.

Every one must feel that the people who at this inclement season forsook their families, and rushed in thousands to the defence of their independence and their laws, deserve that every exertion should be made by the Legislature for their future protection; and having

No. 4.

Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
28 December 1837.Enclosure 1, in
No. 4.

seen the misery which the late violent insurrection against the laws has inflicted upon many hundreds of people and their families, we must feel that humanity requires every reasonable precaution to be taken for enabling the Government in future to suppress such guilty proceedings in their earliest stages.

You are intimately acquainted with the character, the wishes and the interests of your fellow-subjects, for whom it is your privilege to legislate; you are well able to judge of the causes of those evils which we deplore, and I can leave it with confidence to your discretion to devise whatever measures may appear best suited for maintaining the public tranquillity, and for protecting the lives and properties of Her Majesty's subjects.

You will not fail also to devote your most serious consideration to the means of preventing or repelling such hostile aggressions upon our territory, by the people of a friendly power, as our frontier at this moment exhibits; for we owe it to our honour, and to the British name, to be vigilant and firm at such a crisis.

Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

PROCLAMATION.

Enclosure 2, in
No. 4.

THREE hundred acres of the most valuable lands in Canada will be given to each volunteer who may join the Patriot Forces now encamped on Navy Island, Upper Canada. Also, 100 dollars in silver, payable on or before the 1st of May next.

By order of the Committee of the Provincial Government,

(signed) *W. L. Mackenzie,*
Chairman *pro tem.*

Navy Island, Tuesday, 19 December 1837.
