

ed in the event of a continued refusal on the part of the Assembly to permit the Government to go on, it would have a greater chance of acceptance, and thus the Government would be enabled to employ the money without the consent of the representatives here might become unnecessary. If, in addition to this, the Legislative Council should be at the same time liberalized, and an efficient Executive Council established, matters might get on smoothly. You may know the obstacles and impediments to the plan of withdrawal from the force. *Nothing is more erroneous, in my opinion, than the supposition that the French dialybal body. I have every reason to believe the contrary; I have not the slightest apprehension of any serious commotion coming out of these meetings, which, as far as regards the district of Montreal, are planned and carried out by persons entirely frowned upon by the same individuals, few of whom, it is understood, are desirous of substituting a republican for the existing form of government.*

"I have, &c.,  
"GOSFORD."  
Enclosures 1 and 2, in No. 16.

(These are accounts of meetings of the county of Montreal and the county of Richlieu, the proceedings at which have already been published.)

No. 23.

Extract of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle of St. Lewis, July 4, 1857.

"I have just going down your communications of the 26th inst. here, and your statements as those made in the *American* and *Indicator* newspapers, I am induced to write a short letter, merely to acquaint you that Mr. Pepineau, with a few of his party, have been actively employed in attending meetings in different parts of this province, with the view of exciting and inflaming the minds of the people (nominally) against Lord Russell's resolutions; but, in fact, to disseminate doctrines of an illegal and seditious tendency. The papers above mentioned have been sent you to suppose that Mr. Pepineau's efforts have been attended with great success; but from all the reports which have been made to me of the proceedings at these meetings, I am led to conclude that the accounts given in those journals, are, to say the least, greatly exaggerated; indeed, in

some instances the results have been what may be called a failure. M. Papineau is, from all that I can learn, losing ground. The country is quiet. Though I should imagine that M. Papineau's party have emissaries employed in various directions working mischief it requires cautious and vigilance; but

I do not see any ground for apprehending anything like serious commotion.' No. 33.

Extract of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated 21st of St. Lewis, Sept. 2, 1837.

“ You will receive an official despatch from me, dated 30th of August, 1837 (No. 89.), giving you a summary of the proceedings of the Legislature here from the commencement of its meeting, on the 18th of August, to its prorogation on the 26th of the same month. It is evident that the Papineau faction are not to be satisfied with any concession that does not place them in a more favorable position to carry into effect their ulterior objects—namely, the separation of this country from England, and the establishment of a republican form of government. M. Papineau has gone such lengths that he must persevere in his course, or he will be regarded as the chief author of a revolution in the country, which would be a capital

his power and influence; the plan he pursues clearly shows that he is determined to do all he can to obtain his ends. The violent and unjustifiable attacks which have been made by the ultra Tory party upon the French Canadians generally have caused an animosity which M. Papineau does not fail to turn to account, and I attribute much of his influence over so many members in assembly to this cause. M. Papineau has emissaries in various directions, and though I do not conceive there is any

ground for alarm, still great caution and vigilance are required to guard against the evils that might follow the attempt making to excite discontent among the people by the most abominable misrepresentation.

people by the most admirable representations. The Executive requires more power, and under my present impression I am disposed to think that you may be under the necessity of suspending the constitution. It is with feelings of deep regret I state this, but duty compels me to communicate it to you."

"Private.  
"My dear Lord,—I beg to thank  
your Lordship for your letter of the 5th  
ultimo. It appears absurd to attain at  
importance and influence and tactics of  
the factious party in this province be-  
yond their actual progress, and the re-  
sults of their unchecked movements and  
language, while the great mass of the  
Canadian peasantry cannot be excited  
or induced to take an active part with



The persons who are now rounding the alarm; but no doubt should be entertained that the system of agitation carried on by the faction, although chiefly intended to intimidate the Home Government, under present circumstances, and to demonstrate that the country is bordering on a state of revolt, must tend to promote effectually the avowed object of M. Papineau.

"In my correspondence with Col. Eden I have had occasion to refer to the facts and reports that establish the decided character which the agitators have lately assumed. The people have elected the dismissed officers of the Militia to command them. At St. Ours a pole has been erected in favour of a dismissed Captain, with this inscription on it—'Elu par le peuple.' At St. Hyacinthe the tricoloured flag was displayed for several days. Two families have quitted that town in consequence of the annoyance they experienced from the patriots. Wolfred Nelson warned the patriots at a public meeting to be ready to arm. The tri-coloured flag is to be seen at two taverns between St. Denis and St. Charles. Many of the tavern-keepers have discontinued their signs, and substituted for them an eagle. The bank-notes or promissory notes issued at Yarmack have also the same emblem marked on them. M. Papineau was escorted from Yarmack to St. Denis by a numerous retinue; it is said that 200 or 300 carriages accompanied him on his route. He has attended five public meetings lately; and at one of them, La Valrie, a priest was insulted in his presence. The occurrence at St. Denis was certainly a political affair, a family at St. Antoine, opposed to the proceedings of W. Nelson, having been annoyed by the same mob that destroyed the house of Madame St. Jacques a few hours before the shot was fired from her window.

"The game which M. Papineau is playing cannot be mistaken; and we must be prepared to expect that if 400 or 500 persons are allowed to parade the streets of Montreal at night, singing revolutionary songs, the excited parties will come to collision.

"I remain, &c.

"J. COLBORNE.

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

No. 48.

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Lieutenant General Sir John Colborne, K. C. B., dated Downing-street, December 6, 1837.

"Sir, My despatch of the 27th ult. will have apprised you of the approaching retirement of the Earl of Gosford from the government of Lower Canada—an event which, by the terms of his Lordship's commission, will devolve upon you the temporary administration of the affairs of the province.

"It is at once my duty and my anxious desire to relieve you, as far as possible, from the very arduous responsibility attendant upon the discharge of that duty at the present moment. I do not, however, propose to enter upon any statement of the course to be pursued respecting those questions of permanent policy which have been agitated between the Executive Government and the House of General Assembly. All such discussions, however important, are, for the present, superseded by the urgent necessity which has arisen for maintaining the public peace and restoring the authority of the law. To that one great object your undivided attention will be given, and to that alone will my present communication be confined.

"I enumerate in the margin the series of Lord Gosford's despatches which describe the gradual but rapid advance of the enemies of peace and order, from complaints offered at least under the forms of the constitution to the very verge of rebellion. The conclusion from the whole of this intelligence is inevitable, that the leaders of the movement party are restrained only by some remaining considerations of prudence from raising the standard of open insurrection. It is therefore necessary to consider how this crisis is to be encountered.

"You appear already to have concentrated upon the points most exposed to danger every part of her Majesty's forces in British America which it has been possible to withdraw from the adjacent provinces. Arrangements have been made for increasing, if necessary, the number of troops under your command with the return of the spring. In the mean time I trust that your present force will be sufficient to awe the seditious, and to suppress any actual rising which the civil power may be unable to control. If, however, your strength should be inadequate to these objects, you will of course avail yourself of the voluntary aid of such of her Majesty's loyal subjects as may be willing to serve under your authority, and to submit themselves entirely to your orders.

"The first and highest prerogative and duty of the Crown is the protection of those who maintain their allegiance against the enemies of order and peace. To repress by arms any insurrection or rebellion to which the civil power cannot be successfully opposed is therefore a legitimate exercise of the Royal authority; and, in the attainment of this object, the proclamation of martial law may become indispensable.

"It is superfluous to state with what caution and reserve its ultimate resource should be resorted to, and that it ought to be confined within the narrowest limits which the necessity of the case will admit. But if unhappily the case shall arise in any part of Lower Canada in which the protection of the loyal and peaceable subjects of the Crown may

require the adoption of this extreme measure, it must not be declined. It is the utmost confidence in your prudence, that such a measure will not be needlessly taken, and relying on your firmness, that, if taken, it will be followed up with the requisite energy, her Majesty's Government are fully prepared to assume to themselves the responsibility of instructing you to employ it, should you be deliberately convinced that the occasion imperatively demands it. They will with confidence look to Parliament for your indemnity and their own.

"It might embarrass, but could hardly assist you, if I should attempt to address to you any more detailed instructions for your guidance in the present emergency. Her Majesty's Government cheerfully commit to your hands the safety of the important part of the Crown over which your authority will extend. In the discharge of that trust you will have the highest claim to every degree of support which it may be in our power to give.

I have, &c.

"GLENELG."

No. 49.

Copy of a Despatch from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg, dated Castle St. Lewis, November 14, 1837.

"My Lord,—Finding from the system pursued by the disaffected in this province that the decisive measures I have recently submitted for your consideration becomes every day more necessary, it naturally occurs to me that, if it should be determined to take a strong course of proceeding, you might feel desirous to intrust the execution of your plans to hands not pledged, as mine are, to a mild and conciliatory line of policy. As I stated in a former letter, I would not shrink from difficulties, nor wish to take any step that would in the least degree embarrass her Majesty's Ministers; but I owe it to you, to myself, and to my sense of public duty, fairly and honestly to declare my conviction, that any alteration that may take place in the policy to be observed towards this province would be more likely to produce the desired result if confided to a successor, who would enter on the task free to take a new line of action, without being exposed to the accusation of inconsistency, which, just or not, always proves injurious to the beneficial working of any Administration. My continuance here to this time has been, as you are aware, solely on public grounds; had I been influenced by private considerations, I should long ere this have solicited my recall; but the principles by which I was actuated would not admit of an abrupt application of this nature; I therefore confine my communication on this head to acquainting you that my private wish was to return home, but leaving it entirely to you to take the course you might think best calculated to promote the public service. I can, however, assign reasons of a public nature for wishing to be relieved, which I could not well have done sooner; and I should you admit their validity, I trust, after what I have said, you will feel no hesitation, as regards myself, in making such arrangements as you think desirable.

I have, &c.

"GOSFORD."

No. 50.

Copy of a Despatch from Lord Glenelg to Lord Gosford, dated Downing-street, December 23, 1837.

"My Lord—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 14th of November, stating the grounds on which you consider it advantageous to the public service that you should be at once relieved from the office of Governor-General of Canada.

"From my private letter of the 22d, and despatch, No. 281, of the 27th of November, which will probably by this time have reached you, your Lordship will perceive that the Ministers of the Crown, fully appreciating the disinterested views which you had expressed in several of your private communications, had already advised her Majesty to accept of your resignation. It only remains for me therefore, to repeat the high sense entertained by her Majesty's Government of the generous motives by which you have been guided in this respect.

"I have, &c.

"GLENELG."

We give below the official account of the Point au Pele business. It differs little in substance from the accounts we were enabled to give before, from private sources.

[Copy.]

Amherstburg, U. C. 4th March, 1838.

Sir,—When I wrote to you on Sunday last, announcing the defeat of the pirates at Fishing Island, I did not think I should have to report to you another instance of a British Island, being taken possession of by this quarter.

Early in the week, I received information from different quarters, that Point Pele Island had been taken possession of by the pirates from Sandusky Bay. This island is of considerable magnitude, being from seven to nine miles in length and from four to five in breadth; it is situated in Lake Erie, about forty miles from Amherstburg, and twenty miles from the shore. I sent three or four local officers to ascertain the facts, and they were sent close to the shore, and were fired upon; this, together with the circumstance of several people who had gone over to the island to look after their property, and who were detained by the pirates, confirmed me that the report was true. I therefore, on Thursday afternoon, despatched Captain Glasgow, of the Royal Artillery, to inspect the strength of the island, and report his opinion to me, as to the practicability of moving guns and troops

to that place. He returned the following day, at 12 o'clock, and reported that the place was practicable and strong enough to last, I therefore determined, without loss of time, to attack them by day break the following morning; accordingly, with two guns, (6 pounders) the 4 companies of the 32d Regt, 1 company of the 83d, a small detachment of 80 belonging to the Sandusky militia, and a company of the Essex Volunteer militia, and a small party of Indians, moved that evening under my own immediate command, eighteen miles along the lake shore, where I halted for some time, to rest the horses, and at two o'clock in the morning, commenced my march on the lake ice, arriving at the island just at the break of day.

I had previously arranged my plan of attack, which was as follows:—I directed Captain Brown, with the first and second companies of the 32d Regiment to proceed round to the south end of the island, and take up a position on the ice to intercept any attempting to escape by that direction; he was accompanied by a detachment of about twenty-five men of the Sandusky militia; the Cavalry, having made this arrangement, I landed myself with the remainder of the force and the two guns at the north end; the rebels fled at my approach, and escaped into the woods. I was then informed by some of the pirates, who had been made prisoners by the militia on the island, that they were in force to the amount of about five hundred, the troops moved on in extended order, and pursued them through the island, but as the wood was thick, and the rebels extremely deep and heavy, the men were much retarded in their progress.

"The rebels finding themselves hemmed in on every side, moved out at the south end of the island, the only place by which they could escape to the American shore, and advanced in a line towards of 300 men, well armed, and organized, upon Captain Brown's detachment, where they met with the greatest resistance, a brisk fire being kept up on both sides for some time, and several of Captain Brown's detachment having fallen, the rebels, in charge them, which he did, and forced them back (to the wood where they retired in great confusion,) at the point of the bayonet. I particularly beg to recommend this circumstance to the notice of His Excellency the Lieutenant General commanding On the road, inside of the wood, the rebels had a number of sleighs, by which means they succeeded in carrying away about forty of their wounded men, the others succeeded in escaping at the south end of the island, and got over to the American coast, leaving killed on the spot their commanding officer—a Colonel Bradley, a Major Howdell, and Captains Van Rensselaer and McKee, and several others; some prisoners were taken, several of whom were severely wounded.

I regret to say that the taking of the island has not been gained without considerable loss on our part, and I have to regret that you will report for his Excellency's information, that thirty soldiers of the 32d Regt, and 10 of the 83d, and 10 of the militia, were killed, the others wounded, some dangerously, some severely. I sincerely regret the loss of so many brave soldiers, and feel it more an honorable enemy, but I have to regret that the rebels, who were killed and wounded I have the honor herewith to enclose. Having scoured the woods, and satisfied myself that the island was cleared, I re-formed the troops, and about five o'clock in the evening proceeded back to the shore, and returned to their quarters at Amherstburg that night.

When you take a view of the circumstances of this affair, I need hardly detail to you the arduous duties the soldiers have had to perform, from the time they left until their return, travelling in the ice, and for many miles in an excessively cold night, twenty of which were across the lake, accomplishing the object I had in view, namely, the liberating the loyal people detained on the island, gaining possession of the place, restoring to the loyal people their property, and defeating with considerable loss, the enemy, and returning again to the barracks within forty hours.

My warmest thanks are due to the whole of the officers, who supported me in this undertaking, and it is impossible for me in words to do justice to the gallant soldiers of her Majesty's Royal Artillery, 32d Regt, 83d Regt, and the Loyal Volunteers of Cavalry, Infantry, and the few Indians who constituted the force under my command. I have to regret that the 10th of the 32d Regt, a private in the St. Thomas Troop of Volunteer Cavalry was killed in rear of the 32d Regiment by a musket shot.

Colonel Prince, of Sandwich, Mr. Sheriff Lachlan, Captain Girty, and several other gentlemen, asked my permission to accompany me either by land, or by water, and acted with their rifles with our soldiers against the rebels in the wood; I found them very useful from their knowledge of the locality of the place.

I trust this second report on this frontier, and the intelligence and opinions of the officers, will be of great service to you in words to do justice to the gallant soldiers of her Majesty's Royal Artillery, 32d Regt, 83d Regt, and the Loyal Volunteers of Cavalry, Infantry, and the few Indians who constituted the force under my command. I have to regret that the 10th of the 32d Regt, a private in the St. Thomas Troop of Volunteer Cavalry was killed in rear of the 32d Regiment by a musket shot.

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A large tri-coloured flag, with two stars and the word "Liberty" worked upon it, and eleven prisoners, were also taken, some of whom state they were formerly on Navy Island; about forty stand of American muskets, some ammunition, sword, &c. were also taken.

I am informed by the prisoners, that it was the decided intention of these people to land on the Canadian shore last night, and march upon Amherstburg, destroying by fire all the houses &c. they had to pass and for which are sloughs of American citizens from Sandusky Bay had joined them in the night previous to my attack, and made their escape back again immediately on my appearance in front of the island.

I have the honor to request that you will lay the substance of this letter before his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and forward it to Montreal, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant General Commanding.

I have, &c. Sir, Your most obedient, Humble Servant, (Signed) JOHN MAITLAND, Lt. Col. Commanding 32d Regt, Lt. Col. Commanding the Western Frontier.

(Copy.)

Amherstburg, U. C. 20th March, 1838.

Dear Colonel—I have to report to you that Sutherland and a young of the name of Spencer, who they say is his Aid de Camp, were captured yesterday by Colonel Prince of Sandwich, about two miles on the ice: he brought them in here, and lodged them in the Guard House; but I think it is not likely that they should remain here long; I shall forward them to day under a strong escort to Toronto, in charge of Captain Rydberg, of the loyal Essex Volunteers.

I have had no conversation with this man, merely to state to him that it was my duty to send him to Toronto.

Captain Rydberg has been acting here as Brigade Major since the calling out of the Militia Force in this part of the country. I and Colonel Townshend have found him very useful in this situation; he was with his company with me at the capture of Point au Pele Island, and will be able to give you any information you may require upon this subject.

I was very lucky in having nearly the last of the rebels to drive these fellows off the island, for last night and this morning the weather has become soft, and the ice is beginning to get rotten. Some how or other, I think Sutherland must have been making his way to the island when he was taken, but he pretends to know nothing of the action that took place.

I have nothing new to report to you. Our wounded men are doing pretty well, but some of them of the wounds are most severe bone wounds. I have been obliged to send to London express, for the other Assistant Surgeon of the Regiment, and I think if he could be spared, another Medical Officer is required here for the moment.

Enclosed is a deposition made before a Magistrate relative to the rebels, relating to the capture of Sutherland and Spencer.

I am, dear Colonel, Your faithful, (Signed) JOHN MAITLAND, Lt. Col. Commanding Western District, Lt. Col. Commanding the forces in Upper Canada, &c. Toronto.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 1838.

A Bill has been brought into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell to suspend for a time the Constitution of Lower Canada, and to place that Province under the government of a Governor in Council.

The Preamble of the Bill runs thus:—

"Whereas in the present state of the Province of Lower Canada, the House of Assembly of the said Province, constituted under the act passed in the 31st year of his Majesty King George III., entitled 'An Act for the better regulation of the said Province of Lower Canada, and for the more effectual provision for the government of the said Province of Quebec in North America,' and to make further provision for the government of the said Province, could not be called together for the purpose in the said act mentioned, without serious detriment to the interests of the said Province; and whereas it is neverless expedient that the said Province should be permanently governed on constitutional principles, and to provide for the interests of the said Province, and to make such provision for the improvement of the said Province, as may be desirable to propose to Parliament for improving the constitution of Lower Canada, and for the better regulation of the said Province, and for regulating divers questions, which the said provinces are jointly interested in, Her Majesty hath been pleased to authorize the Governor-General of Her Majesty's Provinces in North America to summon a meeting to be held within the said provinces of Lower Canada, and to constitute a Council of the said Governor-General, and of certain persons to be by Her Majesty or on Her Majesty's behalf for that purpose appointed, and to constitute of certain other persons representing the interests and opinions of the said provinces, and to constitute a Council of the said Governor-General, and of certain persons to be by Her Majesty or on Her Majesty's behalf for that purpose appointed, and to constitute of certain other persons representing the interests and opinions of the said provinces, and to constitute a Council of the said Governor-General, and of certain persons to be by Her Majesty or on Her Majesty's behalf for that purpose appointed, and to constitute of certain other persons representing the 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*Letters to the Editor must be post paid.*



