

military force is being withdrawn, the order for the removal of each separate detachment is a matter of the greatest nicety requiring much thought, and that frequent changes in the state of the country may require a corresponding change in the intended removal of detachments, even at the last moment, and that it was essential that the General should be near me. A reference to my correspondence will show how earnest and repeated have been my statements to this effect to the Home Government and General Chute. The evils I stated would arise—if I was deprived of the assistance I needed—have now, I fear, come. Some of them have already fallen on the Colony, and nothing but vigorous and united action can avert the others.

5. The Home Government has, unfortunately, from imperfect knowledge, sided in view with the Major-General. I shall, however, now require him to reside at the Seat of Government until further orders are received from Home, unless he is in the field, and at all risks I shall enforce this determination; but I believe, that General Chute, when he sees this Despatch and its Enclosures, will himself feel the necessity of rendering me that assistance he is so well capable of doing, and will earnestly and well support me in the crisis which has come. I think, however, that the General here should be told, that in a country in a state of rebellion, it is his duty in all instances, in a conciliatory and proper spirit, to comply with lawful requisitions of the Governor, and not to raise factious or needless questions regarding the propriety of these; and even if he thinks it right to raise questions, to comply cheerfully in the first instance with the requisition, and then refer the question home, rather than contest a matter, point by point, and refer it home, either not complying with the requisition, or yielding it an imperfect and therefore useless compliance until an answer has been received. Above all things, he should be instructed not to refer such questions home, without an opportunity of reporting on them by the same mail by which his letter goes.

advanced posts, and I having myself, as the Secretary of State is aware, urged on His Excellency to allow me to carry out my orders for their withdrawal, the whole question of the detention of these troops at all or any of the posts still maintained, is one with which I have ceased to have had anything to do beyond awaiting His Excellency's decision. His Excellency, therefore, being responsible for the retention of the troops at the outposts, and never having seriously consulted me on the subject of the maintenance or withdrawal of any particular detachment, there can be, so far as I see, no inconvenience to the public service in this respect, resulting from Head Quarters being at Auckland, beyond the delay of the three or four days for the transmission to me of the order of withdrawal, and I am sure His Excellency will give me credit for not allowing a day's delay to take place after he favours me with his orders.

I am not aware what those evils are which His Excellency states have befallen the country, but whatever they are, and if anyone be responsible for them, Her Majesty's Government have before them the best means of determining where that responsibility lies. It is a question on which I am not competent to judge beyond feeling that I have not the remotest connection with it.

5. As the first sentence of this paragraph implies that the Home Government, when deciding that Auckland was the place for Military Head Quarters, acted on imperfect information submitted by me, and as a subsequent part of this paragraph implies that I acted improperly in submitting the question as I did to the Secretary of State, it is right that I should here state clearly my action in the matter.

In November, 1865, on receiving the first communication from His Excellency stating the inconvenience he sustained from my not being at Wellington (to which place the Seat of Government had been removed), I submitted to him the serious objections that existed to the permanent establishment of Head Quarters at Wellington at such a distance from the Executive Military Departments, at the same time informing him that I would myself visit Wellington, from time to time, and, in addition, whenever he particularly wished it, meanwhile, if he so desired, stationing a staff officer of rank there to furnish him with any information he might require. His Excellency did not reply to my letter, and when five months had passed I inferred that he considered the reasons I submitted to him against my continued residence at Wellington to be sufficient, and that he allowed the matter to drop. It will have been observed that, in my letter of the 7th December, 1865, a copy of which was enclosed in my Despatch of the 7th April, No. 154, I intimated that I proposed submitting the matter to Her Majesty's Government. When five months passed without any answer from His Excellency, I then thought it my duty to acquaint the Secretary of State with what had passed, and to obtain his approval, or otherwise, of my opinions; and this I did not so much on the grounds of the general importance of the question, which, from His Excellency's silence, I could not believe to be paramount, as because I was desirous of ascertaining for my future guidance in conducting the duties of the command, whether the Secretary of State for War agreed in my opinion that the discipline and administration of the force could be best provided for by my being on the spot here with the Military Departments.

I furnished His Excellency, on the 21st May,