

at his request, with a copy of my Despatch to the Secretary of State of the 7th April, and His Excellency did not then think it necessary to animadvert on the evils which he now states resulted from not having received it before, and the Secretary of State will have seen, as His Excellency himself must have seen, that there was nothing in that Despatch of the 7th April, of which His Excellency had not been previously in possession. The next time His Excellency wrote to me on the subject was in his private note of the 13th April, a copy of which was forwarded in my Despatch No. 167-66, of the 7th May, 1866. In my Despatch of the 8th June No. 213-66, transmitting copies of my applications to His Excellency for the withdrawal of the troops, in compliance with peremptory instructions from the Secretary of State for War, was enclosed a copy of His Excellency's next communication (10th May) to me with regard to my Head Quarters.

On reference to these letters, as well as to my Despatch of the 1st instant (enclosing His Excellency's last letter), the Secretary of State will, I trust, consider that I have just cause for most respectfully protesting, as I now do, against the Governor's attributing to me the "raising of factious and needless questions," because I have unfortunately been compelled, in the exercise of a responsible command, to inform him that its usual and regular duties can be best conducted where the military departments and establishments are located. I can scarcely conceive that His Excellency can refer to my letters to him respecting the withdrawal of the troops; they may certainly have appeared to him too importunate, but the often repeated instructions of the Secretaries of State for War and the Colonies on this subject, together with the statements made by His Excellency in his Speech to the Assembly, and of the Ministers in the debates of that house, rendered it necessary that I should clearly show I was not responsible for any delay in their departure.

I have in every instance complied cheerfully with the Governor's requisitions to proceed to Wellington whenever he required me. I have gone there without receiving any such requisition, and am prepared, as I have already assured His Excellency, to go there again. But I must state, that although His Excellency is kind enough to attach so much importance to my presence, I have never been able to see, as mentioned in my Despatch of the 1st instant, No. 343-66, that my residence there was of the slightest assistance either to His Excellency or the Colonial Government.

In illustration of this I may mention, that though it is, I believe, usual in these Colonies for the Officer Commanding the Forces to be a Member of the Executive Council, I have never been sworn, nor invited to be a member.

I should not think of noticing this fact, except to illustrate, in answer to His Excellency's representations, the value really attached at present in New Zealand to the counsel of the General Officer Commanding Her Majesty's Forces.

6. It is scarcely necessary to reply to this paragraph. I am not aware what the causes are, which, in the Governor's opinion, render the military staff liable to identify themselves with party questions. Whatever they may be, I will simply and broadly deny that either myself or the officers of the staff by whom I am surrounded, have in any way identified themselves with party questions. There is not the slightest ground for such an idea.

6. The Home Government does not rightly appreciate the position of the military staff in this country. They become, from many causes, liable to identify themselves strongly with party questions, and the Secretary of State for War may, under the system of correspondence pursued with him, entirely without his own knowledge, and in ignorance of the merits of the case, be made the head of a powerful party in this country acting in direct opposition to the Governor, and defeating his views on most vital points.