



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 17th of NOVEMBER.

Published by Authority.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1865.

*Downing Street, November 18, 1865.*

THE following Despatch from Governor Eyre, dated King's House, Jamaica, 20th October, 1865, has been received by Mr. Secretary Cardwell:—

*King's House,  
October 20, 1865.*

SIR,

IT is my very painful duty to inform you that a most serious and alarming insurrection of the negro population has taken place in this colony, and been attended with great loss of life and destruction of property. The outbreak commenced at Morant Bay, in St. Thomas in the East, and rapidly spread through the contiguous parishes.

2. A succinct statement of the occurrences will perhaps best enable you to comprehend the very imminent jeopardy in which the colony has been placed, and the nature of the steps taken to put down the rebellion.

3. I may premise that there were three principal objects to be attained.

First. To save the lives of the ladies, children, and other isolated and unprotected persons in the districts where the rebellion existed.

Secondly. To head the insurrectionary movement and prevent the further spread of the rebellion in its progress along and around the east end of the island.

Thirdly. To punish the rebels and restore peace to the disturbed districts.

4. On the morning of Wednesday, the 11th instant, at 8 a.m., I received, at Spanish Town, a letter from the Baron Von Ketelhodt, Custos of St. Thomas in the East, written the previous evening from Morant Bay, to inform me that serious disturbances were apprehended, and to request that troops might be sent.

5. The circumstances stated in the Baron's letter were to the effect that on Saturday, the 7th October, whilst a black man was being brought up for trial before the Justices, a large number of the peasantry armed with bludgeons and preceded

by a band of music came into the town, and leaving the music at a little distance, surrounded the Court House, openly expressing their determination to rescue the man about to be tried if convicted. One of their party, having created a considerable disturbance in the Court House, was ordered into custody, whereupon the mob rushed in, rescued the prisoner, and maltreated the policemen in attendance.

No further injury appears to have been done at this time, and the magistrates seem to have thought so little of the occurrence, that no steps were taken to communicate with the executive.

6. On Monday, the 9th October, the Justices issued a warrant for the apprehension of twenty-eight of the principal persons concerned in the disturbance of Saturday, and confided it to six policemen for execution.

Upon the arrival of the police at the settlement where the parties lived (called "Stoney Gut," and about three or four miles from Morant Bay), a shell was blown, and the negroes collected in large numbers, armed with guns, cutlasses, pikes, and bayonets.

They caught and ill-treated three of the policemen, putting them in handcuffs, and administering to them an oath upon a bible which they had ready, binding them to desert the whites and join their (that is the black) party.

7. Up to this period (Monday night) the Custos had not been in the parish. He arrived on Tuesday, the 10th October, about noon, but did not seem, as I am informed by Mr. Stephen Cooke, clerk of the peace and magistrates, even now to think much of what had taken place, and it was only at the urgent entreaty of Mr. Cooke that he was induced to write the letter to which I have already adverted.

8. Upon receiving this communication at 8 a.m., I immediately sent for the Executive Committee, and after a hurried consultation with them and with the Attorney-General, an express was sent over to Kingston, requesting the General commanding Her Majesty's troops to get ready

100 men for immediate embarkation, and an express was also sent off to Captain De Horsey, of Her Majesty's ship "Wolverine," and senior naval officer at Port Royal, to request that, if possible, a man-of-war might at once be sent up to Kingston, to receive the troops and take them to their destination.

9. Unfortunately the only man-of-war besides the "Wolverine" had left Port Royal for Vera Cruz on this very morning.

Captain De Horsey, however, at once got ready his own ship, the "Wolverine," took her up to Kingston by 5 o'clock, and by 6 p.m. the troops were embarked, and away to Port Royal, where the ship was to anchor till daylight, and then run down to Morant Bay.

10. Having thus done all in my power at the time and without the least delay, I returned to my temporary residence at Flamstead, in the Mountains, to be present at a dinner party which was to meet there the next day.

11. On that day (Thursday, the 12th), about half-past 4 p.m., I received a private letter from a Mr. Davidson, a magistrate of St. Davids, which had been sent across the country, stating that it was reported the blacks had risen and murdered the Baron, two sons of the rector of the parish (Mr. Cooke), and several other persons, and stating that it was expected the rebels were coming along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley to destroy the properties contiguous thereto, and to murder the white and colored inhabitants.

12. Upon receiving this communication, I wrote a hasty application to the General for 200 more troops, and then at once got upon my horse, and set off for Kingston. When about half way down the Mountain, I met a messenger from the Custos of Kingston, corroborating the intelligence I had already received. Upon arriving at the residence of General O'Connor about 7 p.m., I found the news of the massacre had reached Kingston about 2 p.m.

The General at the time was absent at Port Royal reviewing the troops, but an express was sent to him by the Custos of Kingston. This express met him about 3 p.m., as he was returning in a small gunboat from Port Royal. He at once put back to Port Royal, and directed the embarkation from thence of another 100 men on board the gunboat "Onyx", to proceed to the scene of the disturbance. By 6 p.m. they were on board, and all ready to sail at daybreak the next morning.

13. Finding that the General had thus promptly and judiciously anticipated to a considerable extent the requisition I had written, it appeared to me that the only additional step to be taken immediately, was to detach a company of white troops from Newcastle, to proceed along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley, and try to intercept the rebels, who were said to be coming up in that direction, whilst a party could be detached from Morant Bay to meet and co-operate with them. This was accordingly done; by midnight, the order was sent off to Newcastle, and soon after 3 a.m., the company was under arms marching to execute the service. A letter having been written by me to General Jackson, an old Indian officer of ability and experience, requesting him to attach himself to the party in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace, and to afford the benefit of his local information and general experience.

14. The Executive Committee met me in consultation at the residence of General O'Connor, and expresses were sent out to collect the Privy Council, which was assembled a little before midnight.

The result of the deliberation was, that it was considered expedient at once to declare martial law, and notices were forthwith sent out to the members of Privy Council and members of Assembly to meet at 8 a.m. next morning to hold a Council of War, this being the legal formality required by the 9th Vic., cap. 35, sec. 95, 6, 7, and 8.

15. Considering the extreme urgency of the case and the magnitude of the interests at stake, I considered it my duty to make preparations for proceeding in person to the scene of disturbance, to superintend and direct the operations which might be necessary, and as there was no man-of-war in port or English steamer, I chartered the "Caravelle," one of the French line of packet ships, which fortunately happened to be in port, and was most considerately placed at my service by Captain Burat.

16. About half an hour after midnight I got away with my Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Hunt, and drove over to Spanish Town. Here I had the Governor's Secretary and his clerk at once called up, and the requisite proclamations for establishing martial law prepared. By half-past 6 a.m. on Friday, the 13th, I had completed my arrangements, and returned to Kingston by 8 a.m., where I met the Council of War, and with their concurrence at once declared the County of Surry, excepting Kingston, to be under martial law.

17. Having requested the General to send an officer to accompany me to take command of the troops, he named Colonel Nelson, the Adjutant-General, upon whom I at once conferred the local rank of Brigadier-General in the militia in order to give him seniority over all other officers of militia or volunteers who might be present. A detachment of 50 additional troops was at once put on board the "Caravelle," and I also invited to accompany me a member of Council, Mr. A. Fyfe, two members of Assembly, Mr. Peter Espeut and Mr. Andrew Lewis. The Attorney-General and a Mr. Henry Hutchings, all in their capacities as officers of militia and volunteers.

18. By 10 a.m. we embarked. Whilst proceeding down the harbour, we met H.M.S. "Wolverine" from the scene of action bringing up the ladies, gentlemen, and children, who had escaped, and some few prisoners who had been captured.

19. The accompanying report was also received from the senior naval officer, conveying an account of the sad scene which had presented itself on the arrival of the "Wolverine" at 9 a.m., on Thursday morning (12th October).

The shocking tale was still more harrowing as related by those who had escaped, and some of whom appear to have got away in a most wonderful and almost miraculous manner. No less than sixteen gentlemen were known to have been killed and eighteen others wounded.

The most frightful atrocities were perpetrated. The Island Curate of Bath, the Rev. V. Herschell, is said to have had his tongue cut out whilst still alive, and an attempt is said to have been made to skin him. One person (Mr. Charles Price, a black gentleman, formerly a member of Assembly) was ripped open, and his entrails taken out. One gentleman (Lieutenant Hall, of the Volunteers) is said to have been pushed into an outbuilding, which was then set on fire, and kept there until he was literally roasted alive. Many are said to have had their eyes scooped out; heads were cleft open, and the brains taken out. The Baron's fingers were cut off and carried away as trophies by the murderers. Some bodies were half burnt, others

horribly battered. Indeed, the whole outrage could only be paralleled by the atrocities of the Indian mutiny. The women, as usual on such occasions, were even more brutal and barbarous than the men. The only redeeming trait being that, so far as we could learn, no ladies or children had as yet been injured.

20. I append a narrative by Mr. Stephen Cooke, clerk of the peace and magistrates, one of the survivors, of the circumstances immediately preceding the massacre, and so far as he knows of the occurrences of the massacre itself; but it is obvious from the nature of the case that it can only be a most imperfect and incomplete account. The true and full story can now never be hoped for. All the principal inhabitants of the district had been killed, and the entire volunteer force (with the exception of a few who escaped) consisting of 22 officers and men, nobly died at their posts gallantly doing their duty.

21. Having sent a requisition by the "Wolverine" for another company of white troops, we proceeded on our way and arrived at Morant Bay (the scene of the murders) at about 7 p.m., 13th October.

22. Upon landing and inspecting the position and arrangements, we found that about 100 blue jackets and marines, and some 80 men of the 1st West were encamped, whilst a detachment of about 120 of the 1st West under Captain Luke had proceeded on towards Bath to reconnoitre and protect the ladies and children said to be in that district.

23. Having landed the 50 men brought in the "Caravelle," orders were issued for 50 blue jackets and marines to start at daylight on the 14th for Easington, in St. David's, to meet and co-operate with the party of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Regiment, which had been detached from Newcastle, as already stated, to work up along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley to the same locality (Easington).

24. It was now about nine o'clock, p.m., but Brigadier Nelson and myself at once embarked on board the gun-boat "Onyx," Lieutenant Brand, for Port Morant, where we arrived a little after midnight.

25. Here we learnt that Captain Luke, the officer in charge of the party from Morant Bay, had again sent on in advance as far as Bath a detachment of 35 men under Ensign Cullen, for the purpose of protecting women and children. We ascertained also that some of the rebels were in the immediate vicinity of our camp, and a party of twenty-five men was sent out at two, a.m., in the morning, to try and surprise some in their huts. Two men and some women were thus captured. One of the men was a principal in the disturbances of the name of Fleming. He was tried by court-martial, and at once hung. The second, quite a young man, was flogged. The women were released.

26. Early on the 14th October, having made arrangements for the remainder of the party at Port Morant to march to Bath, to co-operate with the detachment of thirty-five already there, and under the guidance of several settlers of the district, who had come up with us for the purpose, to collect and bring down the ladies, children, and other refugees to Port Morant, we returned in the gun-boat to Morant Bay, arriving about nine a.m.

27. Soon after we reached Morant Bay the "Wolverine" came in sight, having on board another company of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Regiment. The day was intensely wet, and as the encampment was not very well protected from

the weather, the troops and sailors were subjected to much discomfort and exposure.

28. The prisoners on board the "Wolverine" were landed, and five of them tried by court-martial, four of whom were hung on the stone archway of the burnt Court-house, near to, which all the massacres had taken place on the 11th. One prisoner was flogged. The Attorney-General of the colony, in his capacity as a captain in the militia, sat as a member of the court.

29. Having made all necessary arrangements, we got under weigh to leave Morant Bay about 4 p.m., the gunboat having already been despatched to Port Morant to take in the refugees collected by the troops.

30. As we were leaving the bay, the "Urgent" troop-ship was signalled in sight making for Port Royal to effect changes of the troops from one West Indian island to another. She was at once signalled to come up to us, and on my application, was ordered by Captain De Horsey to go in to Port Royal to coal, and then at once to proceed to Barbados for troops, for which I wrote the accompanying letter to the officer administering the Government.

31. Having made this arrangement we steamed again to Port Morant, and found the gun-boat had already taken on board the ladies and children and other refugees (numbering about 100) collected from the Bath, Plantain Garden, and contiguous districts. Many of these unfortunate people had suffered great hardships and run great risks, some having been for days and nights in the cane fields or in the woods, without food or clothing save what they had on, and subject to all risks which exposure at night in a tropical country entails.

All were come away without any other possessions than the things they had on. The weather was extremely wet, and the little gun-boat, though a refuge from the rebels, could not afford to such a crowd, either adequate shelter from the weather, or accommodation of any kind suited to the requirements of delicate women and children. Lieutenant Brand and those acting under him were most kind and zealous in doing all they could. And Captain De Horsey assisted by sending his Medical Officers to visit and cheer and supply cooked medical comforts to the invalids. Still the night spent on board the gun-boat, and the subsequent voyage to Kingston must have been one of great trial and suffering to the unfortunate refugees. Eventually they were all landed safely on the afternoon of the 15th.

32. All having been done for the refugees in the gun boat that was practicable, the troops, through whose exertions they were collected and brought in in safety, were re-embarked on board the "Wolverine."

Both vessels remained at anchor for the night.

33. At daylight on the 15th October, the "Onyx" started for Kingston and the "Wolverine" for Port Antonio, where we arrived about 11 a.m.; just in time to save this settlement from the rebels, who were burning buildings and destroying property about twelve miles to the eastward, and had already threatened to come in and destroy Port Antonio this very day.

34. A large number of the principal inhabitants had taken refuge on board an American barque the "Renunion," Captain Tracey, who had taken them out to sea since Friday evening; and only returned to port and anchored just before we arrived. It will be my duty to bring Captain Tracey's kindness under your notice in a separate despatch.

In the town a large number of special and rural constables had been collected by the authorities, and some of the maroons had come down from Moore Town to assist, but all were without arms or ammunition beyond a few old guns or swords, that were of little value for any purpose.

The joy and relief of the inhabitants, therefore, at the arrival of the "Wolverine" may be more easily imagined than described.

No time was lost in disembarking the troops, and by noon a strong detachment, consisting of 100 from the 2nd Battalion 6th and of 1st West India Regiments (many on horseback) were on their way under Captain Hole, 6th Regiment, to meet the rebels reported to be at Long Bay (12 or 14 miles to the eastward), and to protect the women and children and other refugees in that district and in that of Manchioneal, to which they were to move in accordance with an arrangement concerted between myself and Brigadier Nelson.

36. Having made all necessary dispositions for the occupation of Port Antonio, expresses were sent off to Kingston and Morant Bay with information, and the party stationed at Morant Bay was ordered in co-operation with the party expected from Newcastle up the line of the Blue Mountain Valley at once to march by night upon the stronghold of the rebels at Stoney Gut, about four miles inland from Morant Bay, so as to arrive about daybreak, and, if possible, destroy the stronghold and capture or cut off the rebels.

37. I personally inspected the Maroons, a fine body of about 150 men, who in the most loyal spirit had come down on the day preceding our arrival, ill-armed as they were, determined to protect Port Antonio. They were unbowed in their devotion and loyalty, and were beyond measure delighted to see again their former captain, the Honourable A. G. Fyfe, whom I had brought with me in the "Wolverine," and under whose orders they at once placed themselves.

A party of Maroons had already been of great service in protecting Bath, and the fact of this singular and isolated people proving faithful, is one of incalculable value to the Government in the emergency which exists. I shall address you separately in reference to the Maroons, when I am less pressed for time.

38. It was now clear that by the rapidity of our movements we had got ahead of the rebellion, which breaking out at Morant Bay had proceeded rapidly along the south-east, east and north corner of the island.

By occupying Port Antonio in time, we not only saved that district from destruction, but we met and stopped the further progress of the rebellion twelve miles east of it.

We had indeed accomplished some most important results in a singularly brief space of time.

A military post was established at Morant Bay, and another at Port Antonio, whilst the centre of a line connecting the two was occupied by the friendly Maroons.

39. The greater portion of the rebels were therefore hemmed in within the country east of this line. The spread of the rebellion westward was stopped, and if no independent outbreak occurs in any other part of the island we shall have the disturbed districts under control, and can at leisure deal with and punish the insurgents.

At the same time, all the helpless and unprotected ladies, children, and other refugees, have been got in and saved.

40. All our most important work being thus done, and the troops comfortably established in

their barracks, we had for the first time a night of quiet and rest, on the night of Sunday, the 15th October.

41. At daybreak on Monday, the 16th October, a court-martial sat to try prisoners, and 27 were found guilty and hung.

Despatches arrived from Kingston from the Executive Committee and from the Custos and Justices, expressing a desire for my return, and urging me to proclaim martial law in Kingston.

42. As there was no pressing necessity for my stay at Port Antonio, I left the Brigadier-General Nelson to complete his military arrangements, and about 5 p.m. on the 16th set off in the "Wolverine" for Kingston, considering that my personal presence and the information and explanations I could give would do more to allay anxiety and calm apprehension than anything I could write.

There would also be the advantage of communicating personally with the General and with the Executive Committee, as well as of procuring and bringing back arms for the Maroons, without obtaining which we could not make their services fully available.

43. Having left Port Antonio on the evening of the 16th October, we dropped a Maroon messenger in a canoe off Morant Bay as we passed, with orders, and arrived off Kingston by 7 a.m. on the 17th October, almost before any one had any idea of our coming.

44. I at once communicated with the General, with the Executive Committee, and with the civil authorities of Kingston. Considerable apprehension seemed to be entertained that a rising might take place in Kingston, and reports were brought in that disturbances were apprehended at Linstead, in St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, about 14 miles from Spanish Town. To guard against this last contingency, I requested the General at once to send off the troops that were in Spanish Town to Linstead, and then later in the day to replace them by troops to be called in from Rock Fort, 4 miles east of Kingston.

45. During my absence the General had in concert with the civil authorities taken all measures and precautions in their power, by increasing the number of volunteers, both infantry and mounted, calling out the pensioners, and making such other arrangements as were practicable. The General had also sent a detachment of 2nd Battalion 6th Regiment from Newcastle across the country to Buff Bay (not a disturbed district), as a precautionary measure. The party sent out originally at my request from Newcastle under Captain Field to follow up the line of the Blue Mountain Valley, had been strengthened and placed under command of Colonel Hobbs in person. From this officer a report had been received stating his progress up to a place called Mocklands, and a subsequent one announcing his intention to move on Stoney Gut and take that stronghold.

46. I found also that the General in addition to the troops written for by me from Barbados, had made arrangements for recalling about 200 men from Nassau.

47. Having thus discussed and settled with the General all that could be at present accomplished, I met at 9 a.m. the Custos, Mayor, and Magistrates of Kingston, to whom I explained what had been accomplished, and the present state of affairs, and I succeeded in satisfying them that under existing circumstances it would not be expedient at present to extend martial law to Kingston.

48. There was one very important point to be decided upon. Throughout my tour in the

"Wolverine" and "Onyx" I found everywhere the most unmistakable evidence that Mr. George William Gordon, a coloured member of the House of Assembly, had not only been mixed up in the matter but was himself, through his own misrepresentations and seditious language addressed to the ignorant black people, the chief cause and origin of the whole rebellion. Mr. Gordon was now in Kingston and it became necessary to decide what action should be taken with regard to him. Having obtained a deposition on oath that certain seditious printed notices had been sent through the post office directed in his handwriting to the parties who have been leaders in the rebellion, I at once called upon the Custos to issue a warrant and capture him. For some little time he managed to evade capture, but finding that sooner or later it was inevitable he proceeded to the house of General O'Connor and there gave himself up. I at once had him placed on board the "Wolverine" for safe custody and conveyance to Morant Bay.

49. Great difference of opinion prevailed in Kingston as to the policy of taking Mr. Gordon. Nearly all coincided in believing him to be the occasion of the rebellion, and that he ought to be taken, but many of the inhabitants were under considerable apprehension that his capture might lead to an immediate outbreak in Kingston itself. I did not share in this feeling. Moreover, considering it right in the abstract, and desirable as a matter of policy, that whilst the poor black men who had been misled were undergoing condign punishment, the chief instigator of all the evil should not go unpunished, I at once took upon myself the responsibility of his capture.

50. Having placed Mr. Gordon on board the "Wolverine," and having obtained a supply of arms and ammunition from General O'Connor for the use of the Maroons and others, I at once set off again in the "Wolverine" about noon of the 17th October, on my return back to Morant Bay.

51. In leaving Port Royal we encountered H.M.S. "Steady" coming in, and directions were at once given to her to coal and then proceed westward round the island, calling in at the various ports, and taking arms for St. Elizabeth's.

52. The weather being very stormy, with strong wind and head-sea against us, we were unable to get into Morant Bay that evening (17th October), and anchored outside, rolling heavily all night.

53. At dawn of day on the 18th October we entered Morant Bay, and upon landing learnt that nothing had been heard of Colonel Hobbs or his party, but that detachments from the party of sailors and marines left on shore by the "Wolverine" since the 12th instant, and from the Royal Artillery, had proceeded about 3 a.m. this morning to attack Stoney Gut.

54. Being anxious to obtain some information as to the result of the expedition, I detained the "Wolverine" for a few hours whilst some mounted policemen followed after the expedition to procure intelligence. A hurried pencilled report from Lieutenant Oxley stated that they arrived at Stoney Gut about daybreak, but that the rebels had disappeared, and the place was deserted.

55. At 11 a.m. (18th October) we weighed anchor and steamed for Port Antonio, where we arrived a little before dark.

All was going on well. The reports from Captain Hole's party at Manichioneal were satisfactory, and at Port Antonio itself more volunteers had been enrolled and more Maroons had

come down and offered their services. Many rebels had been captured and several courts martial had been held and capital punishment inflicted.

56. Finding that nothing had occurred or was likely to occur to disturb the suitability of the military arrangements which had been made by Brigadier Nelson, in accordance with my requests, I decided upon returning to Kingston, first leaving a memorandum with the Brigadier specifying the several stations which I desired to be kept and the movements which I wished to be made. We remained at anchor in Port Antonio on the night of the 18th October, and on the following day, after landing and distributing arms to the Maroons and getting on board the Morant Bay prisoners who had been landed here, we left about noon on the 19th October for Morant Bay, Brigadier-General Nelson accompanying me to make Morant Bay his head-quarters for directing further operations from.

57. All was going on well at the camp. The parties from Stoney Gut had returned, more rebels had been captured or shot, and a report had also been received from Colonel Hobbs, who, after reaching Stoney Gut, and finding it occupied by the Morant Bay detachment, had retired again towards Mocklands—a position some distance inland, on the line of the Blue Mountain Valley.

Colonel Hobbs had seen and shot a good many rebels as well as captured some prisoners.

On the morning of the 20th October, having landed Brigadier Nelson and the militia officers who aided as members of courts-martial, and having put on shore the prisoners, including G. W. Gordon, I again proceeded in the "Wolverine" to Kingston, reaching that city about 2 p.m.

58. The gun-boats, the "Onyx" and the "Nettle," were left under the orders of Brigadier Nelson at Morant Bay.

59. At Kingston all was quiet, though apprehension of an outbreak is still entertained, and all practicable precautions against it taken.

Many political characters suspected of being implicated in the rebellion, have, under the authority of the Executive Committee and the civil authorities, been apprehended. So also have various Haytian refugees suspected of being mixed up with the leaders of the insurrection.

60. In the country districts rumours of disaffection exist, and threatening letters are received, but no outbreak has taken place, and as the "Steady" has already gone round to visit the outposts, I trust that the evil spirit which evidently pervades a large portion of the peasantry of this island will be kept under and subdued.

61. General O'Connor and the Executive Committee had also in my absence arranged that H.M.S. "Lily," which came into port on the 20th instant, should likewise proceed westward round the island, calling at the various ports, conveying a few troops for Vere, where the expectation of an outbreak had been reported, and taking arms for several of the more distant parishes.

62. Such is a general and hurried outline of what has taken place up to this evening, 20th October. The narrative has been hastily drawn up at sea in such intervals as I could obtain from other avocations, and amidst the inconveniences of board ship, I must therefore claim your indulgence for any imperfections or omissions. Up to the present time, no reasonable or intelligible cause has been assigned as the origin of this most wicked and wide-spread rebellion.

63. I cannot myself doubt that it is in a great degree due to Dr. Underhill's letter and the meetings held in connexion with that letter, where the people were told that they were tyrannised over and ill-treated, were over taxed, were denied political rights, had no just tribunals, were misrepresented to Her Majesty's Government by the authorities and by the planters, and where in fact language of the most exciting and seditious kind was constantly used, and the people told plainly to right themselves, to be up and doing, to put their shoulders to the wheel, to do as the Haytiens had done, and other similar advice.

64. The parties who have more immediately taken part in these nefarious proceedings are: firstly, G. W. Gordon, a Member of the Assembly and a Baptist preacher; secondly, several black persons, chiefly of the Baptist persuasion, connected with him; thirdly, various political demagogues and agitators, who having no character or property to lose, make a trade of exciting the ignorant people; fourthly, a few persons of better information and education, who find their interest in acquiring an influence amongst the black people by professing to advise them, whilst in reality they are but exciting and stimulating their evil passions; fifthly, a few Baptist Missionaries, who like \* \* \* endorse at public meetings or otherwise all the untruthful statements or inuendos propagated in Dr. Underhill's letter; and lastly, a section of the press, which, like the "Watchman" and the "County Union," is always disseminating seditious doctrines, and endeavouring to bring into contempt the representative of the Sovereign, and all constituted authority.

65. Whilst it is my duty to point out how mischievous has been the influence of a few of the Baptist ministers, and of various members of that persuasion, it is equally my duty, and a pleasure to me, to state that I believe the large majority of the Baptist ministers have been most anxious to support the authorities, to teach their people to be loyal and industrious, and to endorse the advice given to the peasantry by Her Most gracious Majesty.

66. In reporting the occurrences of the outbreak of the rebellion, and the steps taken to put it down, it is my duty to state most unequivocally my opinion that Jamaica has been, and to a certain extent still is, in the greatest jeopardy.

67. Humanly speaking, I believe that the promptitude and vigour of action which has at once grappled with and punished the rebellion, has been the saving of Jamaica. The whole colony has been upon a mine, which required but a spark to ignite it. Disaffection and disloyalty still exist in nearly all the parishes of the island, and had there been the least hesitation or delay in dealing with them in the parishes where they became developed in rebellion, I confidently believe that the insurrection would have been universal throughout the entire island, and that either the colony would have been lost to the mother country, or an almost interminable war and an unknown expense have had to be incurred in suppressing it.

68. In many previous despatches I have pointed out the pernicious efforts and influences of the so-called Underhill Meetings; and not long since I called your attention to the necessity I was under in August last of sending men-of-war to the parishes of St. James, Trelawny, St. Elizabeth, Hanover, and Westmoreland, to intimidate the malcontents, and prevent an expected rising. These measures were then successful. In the recent case of St. Thomas-in-the-East the Government

had not a sufficient warning, and our precautionary measures were too late.

69. I trust, Sir, that you will fully bear these circumstances in mind; and that, in doing so, you will not regard the just severity which has been exercised otherwise than as a merciful substitute for the much larger measure of punishment which would have had to be executed had the rebellion been allowed time to gather head and extend itself.

70. I regarded it not only desirable, but a positive duty to be personally present to direct and superintend the military movements in the disturbed districts. From the first moment of the outbreak up to the date of my return to Kingston this afternoon (20th October) every disposition of the troops, and every movement has been made by Brigadier Nelson under my own personal instruction and approval.

71. The whole responsibility of what has been done, therefore, rests upon me. At the same time I beg to express my own deep obligation, and the obligation of the whole community to the military and naval authorities for the promptitude, energy, and zeal with which they have responded to my wishes, and at great personal inconvenience, risk, and hardship have successfully carried out my requirements.

To Major-General O'Connor I am indebted for the extremely ready and rapid manner in which my applications for troops or arms were met, as well as for the able and zealous manner in which during my absence he co-operated with the Executive Committee and the Custos of Kingston in initiating or organising various measures for the protection of the city and parishes.

To the senior naval officer, Captain De Horsey, I am under great obligations, not only for placing his ship, the "Wolverine," at my disposal, but for going in command of her in person, and for the cheerful readiness with which he kept his ship at work almost night and day from the first outbreak of the rebellion until his return to port to-day.

To Lieutenant Brand, of the small gun-boat "Onyx," I cannot sufficiently express my thanks for the indefatigable and untiring manner in which he kept his vessel plying day and night in a most unpleasant and arduous service.

To Brigadier-General Nelson I owe it that all my wishes as regarded military arrangements in the disturbed districts were carried out with the utmost promptitude and efficiency. We never had a difference of opinion even upon the propriety or policy of a single act or movement, and the public service was consequently conducted not only satisfactorily, but pleasantly.

72. I would therefore respectfully ask you to bring to the favorable notice of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the meritorious conduct and services of Brigadier-General Nelson, and to the favorable notice of the Lords of the Admiralty the meritorious conduct and good service of Captain De Horsey, of H.M.S. "Wolverine," and of Lieutenant Brand, of H.M. gun-boat "Onyx." I append a copy of a report by Lieutenant Brand of the proceedings of the "Onyx" between the 12th and 18th October, showing the amount of work, and hard work too, performed in that period. Lieutenant Brand has also been equally engaged between the 18th and 20th, but I have no official report. The colony is also much indebted to Colonel Hobbs, of H.M. 6th Royal Regiment, commanding the expeditionary force on the line of the Blue Mountain Valley, to the militia officers who accompanied me in the "Wolverine," to Inspector Ramsay, of the police force, whose daring and

activity have been most conspicuous, and generally to the troops, sailors, volunteers, and others engaged in the undertaking. My aide-de-camp, Colonel Hunt, of the Royal Marines, rendered very zealous and efficient service both to myself and to Brigadier-General Nelson.

73. The exertions of the Executive Committee and the untiring energy and zeal of the Custos of Kingston, Dr. Bowerbank, are beyond all praise, and justly entitle them to the good opinion, gratitude, and confidence of the colony.

74. It is impossible for me to narrate all the various subordinate arrangements or movements of the respective military corps in the field or of the several detachments sent out from them on special service. It may suffice to state generally that a large number of rebels have been shot with arms in their hands, that a great many prisoners have been tried and hung, shot, or flogged, and that a considerable number of prisoners are still on hand awaiting trial by court-martial.

76. It is difficult to arrive at any correct estimate of the number of people engaged in the rebellion. The districts where it broke out and into which it spread are fertile and very populous.

76. Different persons have reported seeing from several hundreds to as many thousands at a time. And Colonel Hobbs reports in one of his letters that there were still thousands of rebels around him. No stand has ever been made against the troops, and though we are not only in complete military occupation of, but have traversed with troops all the disturbed districts, not a single casualty has befallen any of our soldiers or sailors, and they are all in good health.

They have however suffered much inconvenience and hardship from the state of the weather, which has been extremely wet and inclement, the month of October being the period when what are called the "season rains" usually fall.

77. We have been singularly fortunate in capturing or shooting a large number of the principal ringleaders in the rebellion, and many of whom were personally concerned in the atrocious butcheries on the 12th October at the Morant Bay Court-house, or in the subsequent destruction of life and property further to the eastward, as the rebellion extended in that direction. Very many acknowledged their guilt before execution.

78. It is a remarkable fact that so far as we can ascertain the rebels at Morant Bay did not proceed in any considerable numbers to the adjacent districts, but the people of each district rose and committed the deeds of violence and destruction that were done within it. This fact shows how wide spread the feeling of disaffection is, and how prepared the people of each parish were to catch the spirit and follow the example of their neighbours. It shews too the extreme insecurity which yet exists in nearly all the other parishes of Jamaica, where the same bad spirit prevails. In the lately disturbed districts the rebellion is crushed, in the others it is only kept under for the present, but might at any moment burst into fury.

79. I append various military reports and some other papers, bearing upon the rebellion or upon the state of other parishes.

It has been impracticable to obtain a correct list of all the Europeans or colored persons who have been killed or wounded.

80. I append the names of those at present known, but there were some burnt in the Court-house, and others are missing, and nothing cer-

tain known about them. Even thus, however, the list is a very long and sad one, and comprises many persons of station, education and weight in the community, whose loss is irreparable in a colony like Jamaica.

81. Copies of a letter taken at Stoney Gut, and of threatening letters which have since been received, either here or at Kingston, are attached. I also add copies of the local newspapers.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
E. EYRE.

P.S., 23rd October.—Having kept my despatch open, I am enabled to add that Mr. George William Gordon has been tried by court-martial at Morant Bay, and sentenced to be hung. The execution was to take place this morning, at 8 a.m.

I have seen the proceedings of the court, and concur both in the justice of the sentence, and in the policy of carrying it into effect. It is absolutely necessary for the future security of Jamaica, that condign punishment should be inflicted upon those through whose seditious acts and language, the rebellion has been originated.

2. I enclose copies of the report from the General and of my letter in reply.

I have omitted to state that during my absence the Executive Committee caused the Haytian refugees in this island, and various other persons who were suspected of being mixed up with or of encouraging seditious movements to be taken into custody. I quite concur in the propriety of this step.

3. If no further outbreak occurs, I hope to be able in a short time to proclaim a general amnesty, except to actual murderers, upon the rebels coming in and submitting to the Queen's authority, and I yet hope that the disturbed districts will be sufficiently quieted in time for the sugar crops, now nearly fit for cutting, to be reaped.

24th October, 1865. E. EYRE.

I would particularly call your attention to the fact stated in Colonel Hobbs' report of 15th October, that the rebels are not the poor or the starving, but persons who are well off and well to do in the world, and better educated than the lower class of negroes generally are, an experience abundantly confirmed from many other quarters.

E. E.

*List of Killed and Wounded in the recent disturbances in St. Thomas-in-the-East, 12th October, 1865.*

**VOLUNTEERS KILLED.**

- Captain Hitchins.
- 1st Lieutenant Hall.
- 2nd Lieutenant Reid.
- Corporal Harrison.
- Corporal Filfoy.
- Many others killed or burnt, names unknown.

**WOUNDED.**

- Serjeant Harrison, severely.
- Private Ruddy, since dead.
- „ Conri, ditto.
- „ Good.
- „ Ross.
- „ McContie.
- „ Williams.

CIVILIANS KILLED.

Baron Ketelhodt (Custos St. Thomas-in-the-East)  
Rev. Victor Herschell.  
Mr. Walton, J.P.  
Mr. Arthur Cook, J.P.  
Mr. A. B. Cooke.  
Mr. McCormack (aged man and cripple),  
Mr. C. Price.  
Mr. A. Brown.  
Police Inspector Alberga.  
Augustus Hire.  
Mark Douglas (reported).

CIVILIANS WOUNDED.

The Honourable W. P. Georges J.P. and Custos  
of St. David.  
D. MacPherson, Coroner (since dead).  
Arthur Warmington, J.P., sword cut.  
Brookes Cooke, Her Majesty's Customs.  
Mr. Grey, vestryman.  
William M'Intosh.  
Mr. Bowen, J.P.  
William Mitchell.  
James Williams.  
Mr. MacPherson, since dead.  
Mr. A. Lewis.  
C. Alberga.  
Mr. J. W. Jackson.

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Published by THOMAS LAWRENCE BEHAN, Editor, Manager and Publisher, of No. 26, Charles Street, in the Parish  
of St. James, at No. 45, St. Martin's Lane, in the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, both in the  
County of Middlesex.

Printed by THOMAS RICHARD HARRISON and THOMAS HARRISON, Printers, at their Office, No. 45, St. Martin's Lane,  
in the Parish and County aforesaid.

Saturday, November 18, 1865.

Price Eight Pence.