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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 Ketelhardt, 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 Kensington by 5 o'clock, and by 6 p.m. the troops were embarked, and away to Port Royal, where

