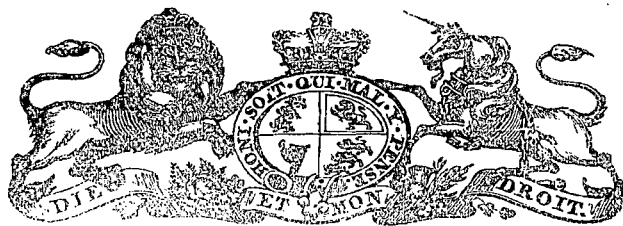


(No. 86—Revised.)



1885.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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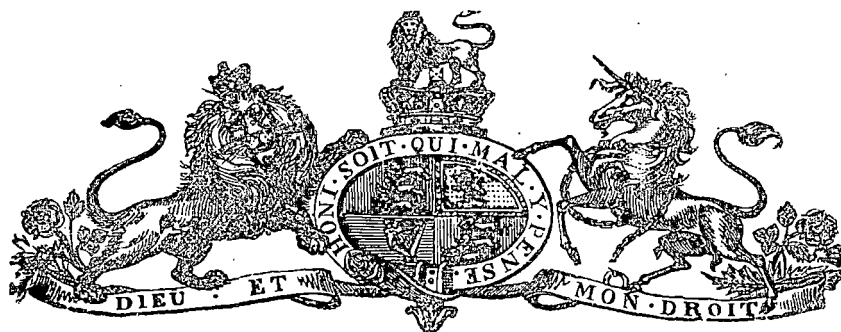
GUNNER SCURRAH, S. T. V. A. :

PAPERS CONCERNING HIS DISMISSAL.

*Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Crowther.)*

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Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, August 4, 1885, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 12, 1885.



*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery,  
Hobart, 29th November, 1884.*

THE Captain Commanding regrets that he has to draw the attention of the non-commissioned officers and gunners to their want of knowledge of Military usage and discipline, in so far as signing any petition or document connected with the Volunteer Force, and more especially anything connected with the Corps of which they are members, without first satisfying themselves that he approves of such. He refers to a Petition, or letter, addressed to Dr. E. L. Crowther, the Honorable W. H. Burgess, and the Honorable W. L. Crowther, (who were until lately Major, Captain, and Surgeon-Major, respectively, of the Corps), asking them to return as Officers.

The Petition has been started by a Gunner of the Corps without the sanction of his Commanding Officer, and if such proceedings are allowed to take place would be subversive of all discipline, inasmuch as the Gunner puts himself above his Commander. The Gunner referred to came to the Commanding Officer on the evening of the 26th instant, and handing him the document requested his signature, which was refused and reasons given for doing so. On this refusal it was thought that the document would be destroyed, but, much to his surprise, he was informed, the following morning, that the signatures of some of the members of the Corps had been obtained; immediately this was known the Gunner was waited on, and told that the further proceeding with the petition was prohibited.

The Captain Commanding absolves from all blame those non-commissioned officers and men who have put their names to it, as he can well understand that they never thought for a moment that they were doing anything wrong, and would almost, as a matter of course, to a man, sign anything asking their late Commanding Officer to return; but if they had given the matter a thought they would see that a petition of this kind is an insult to the present Commanding Officer, as it implies that he is not fit for his position: he, however, does not imagine this was intended.

It must be distinctly understood that anything connected with Volunteer matters must come through the Commanding Officer.

If any member has a grievance, or wishes to do anything he thinks would be for the good of this Corps, he should consult with the Officer Commanding, when every attention would be paid to what he had to state, and he would then be advised in the matter,—as advised, the matter should go on, or drop; should the advice given be adverse, no further action should be taken, but should it, contrary to the decision, be carried further, it would then be a breach of discipline, which might border on *insubordination*, a grave Military misdemeanor, which would meet with severe punishment.

The Captain Commanding also wishes to point out to members that any letter would not have the desired effect, as by "The Volunteer Act, 1878," 42 Vict. No. 12, Clause 8, members of Volunteer Corps can only recommend (*recommend*, not *elect*) officers up to the rank of *Captain*; Officers above that rank are appointed by the Governor in Council, and all persons before they become officers must be enrolled members of the Corps. It will thus be seen that the return of the gentlemen named in no way rests with the non-commissioned officers and gunners.

It has been the great aim of the present Commanding Officer to instil some amount of discipline into the men of the Corps (for without it no body of men banded together for the purposes of defence can prosper), that by a ready obedience to all commands they might make the Corps a credit to the Colony, and also an honor for any man to belong to. Nothing should be allowed to be done by any individual that would in any way bring discredit on the Corps. Non-commissioned officers should particularly look to this, and refuse at all times to follow the lead of a gunner, and remember that each stripe won carries with it some amount of responsibility, which increases from the one stripe of a bombardier to the three stripes of a sergeant.

The Captain Commanding again repeats what he said in Order of 6th August, 1884; namely, "that if any member of the Corps thinks that he cannot conform to the discipline which must and

shall be maintained, he had better, for his own sake and for the credit of the Corps, sever his connection with it at once."

The gunner before named, instead of at once desisting, was impertinent, set the Commanding Officer at defiance, and went on collecting signatures, thus being guilty of gross insubordination, which, if not stamped out at once, would set the authority of his officers at naught. The Captain Commanding will not submit to such proceedings, and is determined to use strong measures to put a stop to such a state of things. He therefore, by the powers vested in him by the Volunteer Act before quoted, *hereby discharges Gunner Edward Scurrah* (regimental number 67, "B" Battery) from the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps, and calls upon him to return all arms, accoutrements, &c. the property of the Government, and to pay the sum of Two pounds and ten shillings (£2 10s.), the amount he owes the Corps for not being an effective, and is given until Monday the 8th December, 1884, at 8 P.M., to do this,—failing which, proceedings at law will be taken against him.

T. M. EVANS, *Captain Commanding.*

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*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps,  
Hobart, 1st December, 1884.*

MEMO. for Gunner Scurrah, B Battery.

It is hereby notified that, in accordance with Order of the 29th November, 1884, you have been discharged from the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Corps for insubordination, and you are ordered to return all arms and accoutrements the property of the Government, and to pay the sum of Two pounds and ten shillings (£2 10s.) the amount you owe to the Corps for not being effective. You are given until 8 P.M. on Monday, the 8th December, 1884, to do so, failing which proceedings at law will be taken against you, as provided for by the Volunteer Act, 1878, 42 Vict. No. 12.

T. M. EVANS, *Captain Commanding.*

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*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery,  
Hobart, 1st December, 1884.*

SIR,

I BEG to inform you that I have had to discharge from the Corps, for insubordination, Gunner Edward Scurrah, No. 67, B. Battery, and enclose a copy of the Order containing particulars of his offence.

I trust my action to uphold the discipline of the Corps may meet with your approval.

I have, &c.

T. M. EVANS, *Captain Commanding.*

*The Commandant, Military Barracks.*

WILL the O.C.S.T.V.A. be good enough to furnish the Commandant with some evidence in support of the charge of insubordination which he brings against Gunner Scurrah?

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*  
3. 12. 84.

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Gunner Scurrah, on the evening of the 26th ultimo, after he found his Officers declined to sign the document, said, "That as the Officers would not sign he would drop the affair for the present." I cannot say these were the *exact* words he made use of, at any rate they were to the effect that he would drop the matter. The next morning I was told he was getting a number of signatures to it. I at once waited on him and told him my orders were that it was not to go on, and had a long talk to him about his inefficiency. He stated he had seen Dr. Crowther (late Major), who wanted to come back. I told him to give me the petition and nothing more should be said, and told him he ought not to disobey an order. He said he "would look up the Regulations for himself, and if he found he could go on with it he would." I looked upon this as insolence, it being said in an impertinent manner, and again said my orders were the affair must drop, and told Sergeant Atkins to make a note of the conversation.

Statements of Lieutenant Bennison and Sergeant Atkins enclosed.

T. M. EVANS, *Captain Commanding.*  
4. 12. 84.

Hobart, 4th December, 1884.

SIR,

IN accordance with your request that I would detail for your information so much as I could recollect of what took place at the first interview between you and Gunner Scurrah, I have to report as follows:—

I recollect the evening of Wednesday, the 26th ult. On reaching the drill-yard I saw you and Gunner Scurrah in conversation; after a short time you called me up and handed me a written document addressed to the Honorables W. H. Burgess and W. L. Crowther, and Dr. E. L. Crowther, requesting them to return to the positions originally held by them in the S.T.V.A. Corps. You said that you had declined to sign it, as the gentlemen in question had left of their own free choice, having made their selections between their Commissions and their seats in their Legislature, and consequently could not expect to return to the positions they had vacated. You also explained to Scurrah that the proposed means could not secure the end in view, as the persons mentioned were not enrolled volunteers; and further, that members of the corps had no voice in the nomination of a Commanding Officer above the rank of Captain.

Scurrah remarked that a number of resignations from the Corps had followed upon Major Crowther's retirement: this I questioned, as the reasons given for resignation in almost all cases being inability to attend daylight drills.

Scurrah also mentioned the loss of the band as another reason for decreased numbers, to which you replied that the band was, of course, a great attraction.

I handed the document back to Scurrah, who, remarking that he would do nothing further in the matter for the present, then left.

I have, &c.

J. BENNISON, *Lieut. S.T.V. Artillery.*

*Captain T. M. EVANS, Commanding S.T.V.A. Corps.*

Hobart, 27th November, 1884, 10.30 A.M.

I WAS present with Capt. Evans this morning in Gunner Scurrah's shop, when Captain Evans informed him (the said Scurrah) that the petition he was getting signed was not in accordance with the Military Regulations, and was a great breach of military discipline. Captain Evans then asked him for the petition, which he, in my presence, declined to give up until he had read the Regulations for himself. If he found he was in the wrong he would not go on with it; otherwise he would.

C. R. ATKINS, *O.R. Sergt.*

THE Commandant has given careful consideration to this matter, and approves of the action of the Officer Commanding in discharging Gunner Scurrah. The O.C. had no other alternative, as after the breach of discipline the gunner had been guilty of, in getting up a petition which had for its object the removal of the O.C. from his position, had been pointed out to him, he set the authority of the O.C. at defiance in signifying his intention (under certain circumstances) to continue in a course of action so highly prejudicial to discipline and good order. This being a flagrant case of insubordination, the O.C. took the proper course in discharging the gunner from the Corps, by virtue of the powers given him in the Volunteer Regulations, Sect. 67, paragraph 1. The Commandant earnestly hopes that the prompt action of the O.C., instead of causing discontent and dissatisfaction in the Corps, will, on the contrary, imbue the members of the Corps with a feeling of reliance on their Commanding Officer as one who is striving to make the Corps what it should be,—viz., a pattern of good order and military discipline,—without which no Corps, however well drilled, can be relied upon to defend their country in the hour of need.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commandant.*  
6. 12. 84.

To be returned after being read out.

READ out on parade and returned.

T. M. EVANS, *Captain Commanding S.T.V.A.*  
8. 12. 84.

Hobart, 2nd January, 1885.

SIR,

I BEG most respectfully to apply to you for a copy of Order *re* my dismissal from the S.T.V.A., which was read out on parade December 1, 1884, and again December 3. As its possession by me will be necessary, and believing that I am entitled to it, I trust you will kindly accede to my request.

Yours very respectfully,

Capt. T. M. EVANS, *S.T.V.A. Corps.*

E. SCURRAH.

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*Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery,  
Hobart, 6th January, 1885.*

CAPT. EVANS acknowledges the receipt of a letter from Mr. E. Scurrah, dated 2nd instant.

Mr. Scurrah made the same request as that contained in his letter on the evening of the 22nd ultimo, when he read the Order, and made notes of the same in his pocket book.

Captain Evans gives the same reply as he did on that date.

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72, Collins-street, 26th February, 1885.

SIR,

ON the evening of Wednesday, November 26th, 1885, I visited the S.T.V.A. Drill-yard, in mufti, and presented a petition to Capt. Evans, which he refused to sign, but not cautioning me in any way against getting up the said Petition for signature.

To my surprise, at the half-day parade on Saturday, November 29th, I was, in my absence, and without the slightest enquiry, discharged from the Corps. I was for over six years a member of the Corps, and can unhesitatingly say that during the whole of that time not a scratch of a pen appeared against me in the default book.

I consider my dismissal illegal, and therefore respectfully request that you will cause an official enquiry to be instituted concerning my case.

I have, &c.

EDWARD SCURRAH.

*The Colonel Commanding Tasmanian Volunteer Force.*

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Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 7th March, 1885.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter complaining of your dismissal from the Force by the Officer Commanding Southern Tasmanian Artillery Corps, and asking for a Court of Enquiry into the matter. As I went fully into the circumstances of your case at the time, and approved of the steps taken by your Commanding Officer, I am not prepared to accede to your wish, which would be highly detrimental to the interests of the Service.

The dismissal was ordered solely on account of your alleged intention to disregard the order of the Commanding Officer not to go on with a course of action which would result in displacing him from the command of his Corps.

This course of action was prejudicial to good order and discipline in the Corps, and its evils were pointed out in a very well-worded memorandum issued to the non-commissioned officers and men by the Commanding Officer, but which, it is to be regretted, had apparently no effect on you. On reference to the enclosed extract from the Rules and Regulations, page 3, you will see that the Commanding Officer acted quite within the power relegated to him.

I have, &c.

W. V. LEGGE, *Colonel Commanding.*

Mr. EDWARD SCURRAH, 72, Collins-street.

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72, Collins-street, Hobart, 24th March, 1885.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of yours of the 7th instant, in reply to mine of February 26th, also copy of extract enclosed to page 3, to which you draw my attention, wherein it empowers the Commanding Officer under the new Rules to dismiss any member of the Corps, *he having signed under these Rules*, for disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, misconduct, or for other sufficient cause, the existence or sufficiency of such causes respectively to be judged of by the Commanding Officer; and, in reply, I must state that I was fully conversant previously with the said Rule, and would respectfully draw your attention to what follows in the said Rule, which reads thus; viz.—“But nothing herein shall extend to affect any rules of such Corps which have been approved by the Governor, and which may be applicable to the discharge of any volunteer when not on actual military service, and nothing herein shall prevent the Governor from signifying his pleasure in such manner, and giving such directions, with respect to any such case of discharge as to the Governor may appear just and proper.” And would further draw your attention to page 10, Rule 16, of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery Corps, January 10th; 1878, under which I joined, and approved of by the Governor, F. A. Weld, which reads thus:—“*The Board* shall have power in case of Non-commissioned Officers and *Gunners* either to fine any member duly summoned, tried, and convicted by it of a breach of any Rule or Regulation of the Corps, in such amount, being within the limit of the Volunteer Corps Act, as may seem to it to meet the requirements of the case, or to *recommend* the dismissal of the member so convicted.”

You state in your reply that my dismissal was solely on account of *my alleged* intention to disregard the order of the Commanding Officer, hence your refusal to have my case gone into. I regret much that you do not recognise the justice of submitting my case to the decision of a Board of Officers, and distinctly deny the imputation conveyed in your letter, viz.—that of my intention to disregard the order of the Commanding Officer,—and therefore still respectfully urge my demand for an investigation into my case.

*Re* the document previously spoken of, I received no caution, in any form whatever, from the Commanding Officer on the evening I presented the said document to him for signature; but on the following morning *Captain Evans, in mufti*, waited on me at my place of business, and requested me to hand the said document over to him, which I refused to do on principle,—viz., having obtained a large number of signatures to it. On the *next day, Friday, at about 1 o'clock*, Dr. E. L. Crowther received a letter from Captain Evans complaining of what I was doing, and stating should he hear the document was still in circulation he would dismiss me as an example. On receipt of this Dr. Crowther immediately communicated with me, and I at once handed the document over to him on that *very same day*, and can prove not a single name was obtained or sought to be obtained after 10 A.M. on that day, Friday; and to my great surprise I was discharged on the Saturday, without the slightest enquiry.

In conclusion, I must again state on my joining the Corps I did so under no other Rules than those approved of by the Governor, which I have now in my possession, and according to the said Rules I still believe my dismissal illegal, hence my again communicating with you in the matter.

I have, &c.

E. SCURRAH.

*To the Colonel Commanding Tasmanian Volunteer Force.*

72, Collins-street, Hobart, 6th April, 1885.

SIR,

As (until recently) one of the oldest members of the Volunteer Corps in Tasmania, having joined at its formation in January, 1878, I would beg most respectfully to bring under your notice, in your official capacity as Minister of War, the subject of my dismissal by the Commanding Officer (without any intimation to me or enquiry into the case) from the ranks of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery Corps.

Feeling that an injustice had been done, and the proceedings contrary to all military rules, I, as the proper course to adopt, appealed to the Colonel Commanding, and failing to receive any satisfaction at his hands, my last communication not even being acknowledged, I am reluctantly compelled to lay my grievance, together with all particulars and correspondence, before you, feeling that it will receive at your hands the consideration and justice it may seem to deserve.

I am, &c.

E. SCURRAH.

*The Hon. the Minister of War.*

MEMO.

IN connection with the above, I would beg to state that I personally applied to Capt. Evans for a copy of the Order of my discharge read out on parade, which he refused. I again applied to be allowed to copy same myself from the Order Book, and was met with the reply from Capt. Evans, Certainly not—he would not allow me to copy anything. I consider this very unjust, believing I was, according to military rule, entitled to the copy which I applied for.

E. S.

72, Collins-street, Hobart, 18th May, 1885.

SIR,

SINCE placing my grievance (*re* my dismissal from the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps) before you some weeks since, when I forwarded all the correspondence which had taken place between the Commandant and myself *re* the same, including my complaint of not having received even an acknowledgment of my last letter to him, I now beg to acquaint you of the receipt by me, dated 25th April, 1885, of an acknowledgment of same, some 32 days after his receipt of mine, which I now forward to you, together with my reply, that you might be in possession of the whole of the correspondence complete, which you will please attach to that now in your possession.

I have, &c.

E. SCURRAH.

*The Hon. the Minister of War.*

Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 25th April, 1885.

SIR,

YOUR communication has remained unanswered owing to the press of work in consequence of the Easter encampment and the defence of Hobart.

There seems to be a misunderstanding on your part as to the new Rules: the extract sent you is taken from the Rules in vogue for some years. The Rules and Regulations of the Southern Tasmanian Artillery do not constitute any authority so far as I can ascertain, not having received the approval of the Authorities.

That the fact of either an officer or a volunteer being in mufti should preclude him, on the one hand, from executing his duty with matters connected with the Force, or, on the other hand, should shield him from authority when committing any act to the prejudice of good order, is, in my opinion, a theory which if put into practice would at once upset the whole system of discipline in the Volunteer Service.

It appears that though Major Evans announced his intention of dismissing you on the occasion you report, he carried out this when on parade.

It must be borne in mind that according to the present Regulations, dismissal from the Force can be carried out for any such cause (*see* par. 67, Volunteer Regulations, 1878) as that connected with your case.

As you appear desirous of enrolling again in order to serve the Colony, I am willing to give my sanction, in accordance with the provisions of the first part of par. 12, page 5, of the Rules and Regulations of the Local Forces, for your enrolment in the Reserve, provided you have been efficient in previous years.

I do not approve, however, of granting a Court of Inquiry into your case, as I consider that you should have communicated with the Officer Commanding your Corps after his interview with you and informed him that you did not wish to act against his orders, and thus have removed the cause of your dismissal at the parade held subsequently to that interview.

I have, &c.

W. V. LEGGE, Colonel Commandant.

MR. E. SCURRAH, 72, Collins-street.

72, Collins-street, Hobart, 8th May, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter under date 25th April, 1885, and regret that I cannot accept it as satisfactorily conclusive.

I complain of having been unjustly dismissed from the Southern Tasmanian Volunteer Artillery Corps without enquiry of any kind; and I must persist in contending that I have been guilty of no offence whatever, not even of infringing any rule or regulation.

I contend that I have illegally been made to suffer punishment and injury by the Commanding Officer (Major Evans) dismissing me without giving me the opportunity to which I am entitled according to the Rules, to which your attention was directed on the 24th March, 1885. Moreover, such peremptory dismissal gave ground for the belief that I had been guilty of some offence that merited such degradation.

Major Evans, without hesitation, ignored all my good conduct service, and unjustly degraded me in the eyes of my friends, both civil and military.

You say that I may enrol in the Reserve Force provided I have been efficient in previous years. The returns will of course prove that; and I have a right to feel proud of another condition of efficiency—that of a marksman for each year, and, further, having gained the credit of obtaining the highest score ever obtained in Tasmania.

I again say I was unjustly thrust out of my corps, and would respectfully ask, would you, as a gentleman and a commanding officer, countenance the presence of a degraded man as a member of an honorable corps?

If I am worthy to wear the uniform in one corps, I contend that I am worthy to be a member in any corps for which I was physically capable.

I again respectfully ask that a Court of Enquiry may be granted, for I believe that justice would acquit me of having been guilty of any misconduct as a volunteer, or any degrading offence as a private citizen; or, as you have said that you sanction my again appearing in uniform, I respectfully ask that you will cancel the Order which was read out on my dismissal, thus reinstating me in my former position.

I have, &c.

E. SCURRAH.

*The Colonel Commanding Tasmanian Volunteer Forces.*

P.S.—The foregoing you will please accept as an acknowledgment and reply in as concise a form as possible, necessarily so in consequence of the case being in a measure out of my hands, as, after waiting so long for an acknowledgment from you of my last, and not getting it, I concluded that it was your intention not to have any more to do *re* the matter, and I consequently, as the next course open to me, placed the whole of the particulars, with all correspondence thereon, in the hands of the Minister of War.

E. S.

*The Treasury, Hobart, 21st May, 1885.*

HEREWITH I forward papers in connection with "Scurrah's" case, and should like a report upon same.

I notice with regret that, although applied for, a Court of Enquiry was refused. Reading the papers, this seems to me a very arbitrary way of dealing with this case.

I do not know whether *Military Law* sanctions a man's dismissal or punishment without trial, but certainly the *Civil Law* does not.

I hope that a full, clear, and explicit explanation may be forwarded to me without delay.

*To the Commandant Local Forces.*

W. H. BURGESS.

REPORT herewith as desired.

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col. R.A.*  
27. 5. 85.

*The Hon. the Treasurer.*



*Head Quarters Office, Hobart, 26th May, 1885.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your communication of 21st May, covering papers in the case of Gunner Scurrah, and asking for a report upon the same, also expressing your regret that "a Court of Enquiry, although applied for, was refused," and your doubt as to whether "Military law sanctions a man's dismissal or punishment without trial."

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that Gunner Scurrah's case received my most careful attention at the time, and I felt constrained, under the Regulations, and in the interests of good order and military discipline, to approve of the action of his Commanding Officer.

The dismissal took place on the 1st December. On the 3rd December I called for evidence of the alleged acts of insubordination, and being satisfied therewith, my approval was given on 6th December. Nearly two months afterwards, viz., on 26th February, 1885, Gunner Scurrah applied for a Court of Enquiry. At that period, so long after the occurrence, it would not have been in accordance with military *régime* to have ordered a Court of Enquiry into the propriety of an action which I, as Commandant, had approved, and of which I still approve. Had I adopted such a course it would have been "highly detrimental to the interests of the service," as I pointed out in my letter to Gunner Scurrah of 2nd March, 1885.

Regarding your doubts as to the sanction of Military law, I need only draw your attention to Section 67 of the Rules and Regulations of the Tasmanian Volunteer Force, approved by His Excellency the Governor in Council, which expressly empowers Commanding Officers to dismiss men without trial for disobedience of orders while doing any military duty, or for neglect of duty, or misconduct as a member of the corps, or for other sufficient cause, the existence and sufficiency of such causes respectively to be judged of by the Commanding Officer.

The same section of the Regulations provides a remedy against possible injustice; and had Gunner Scurrah *at the time* requested a reference of his case to the Governor, I should have laid the matter before His Excellency for the signification of his pleasure thereon.

Much is made in the correspondence of the circumstance that certain transactions took place when in mufti. This cannot be permitted to palliate an act of insubordination or a breach of discipline. In or out of uniform volunteers must pay respect to the commands of their superior officers, and you will see that discipline could not be maintained were an officer debarred from correcting a palpable breach of it, because, at the time, he may happen to be in plain clothes. Should any officer exceed his authority he is amenable to the Rules and Regulations, and can be called to account by his superiors.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Treasurer.*

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col., R.A., Colonel Commandant.*

I HAVE carefully read Section 67 of the Regulations referred to, and would be glad to know if this man was engaged upon *any military duty*. If so, what?

W. H. BURGESS.  
2. 6. 85.

THIS man was not engaged in any military duty at the time of his offence, but was dismissed, under the alternative clause of the section, for "misconduct as a member of the corps." The clause proceeds "or for other sufficient cause, the existence and sufficiency of such causes respectively to be judged of by the Commanding Officer."

W. V. LEGGE, *Lt.-Col. R.A., Colonel Commandant.*  
3. 6. 85.

WILL the Hon. the Attorney-General advise me in this matter?

W. H. BURGESS.  
4. 6. 85.

*Treasury, 20th July, 1885.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th April last, which was duly acknowledged on the 8th of the same month, I have the honor to state that I have very carefully perused the papers submitted by you, and it appears to me that, as the case has been dealt with under the provisions of Section 67 of the Rules and Regulations of the Tasmanian Volunteer Force, I am unable to interfere with the action of the Commanding Officer.

I have, &c.

MR. E. SCURRAH, 72, *Collins-street, Hobart.*

W. H. BURGESS, *Treasurer.*