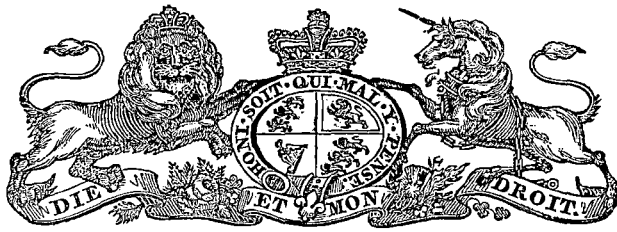


(No. 18.)



1866.

T A S M A N I A.

D E S P A T C H.

DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 31 July, 1866.



TASMANIA.
No. 65.

Downing-street, 27th November, 1865.

SIR,

I COMMUNICATED to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a Copy of your Despatch, No. 73, of the 20th of September, upon the subject of the Defences of the Colony; and the attention of their Lordships was directed to the request of your Responsible Advisers that, in addition to an Artillery Force, a Gun-boat should be lent by Her Majesty's Government to be stationed in the waters of the Derwent.

You will see by the annexed Copy of the reply which has been received to that reference that it is not in their Lordships' power to comply with this application.

A Copy of your Despatch has been forwarded for the consideration of the War Department.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor T. GORE BROWNE, C.B.

Mr. ROMAINE to Sir F. ROGERS.

(COPY.)

Admiralty, 23rd November, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your Letter of the 18th instant, enclosing a Despatch from the Governor of Tasmania relative to the Defences of Hobarton, and requesting to be informed whether my Lords would be prepared to make any offer to lend an Iron-plated Gun-boat to Tasmania, provided that Government would engage for its repairs and annual expenditure, and place it under the provisions of the Colonial Naval Defence Act of last Session.

My Lords desire me to state in reply, for the information of Mr. Secretary Cardwell, that they regret that they have not any Vessel which they could lend to the Colony, and the expense of building such a Vessel would be very considerable.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Sir FREDERIC ROGERS, *Bart.*