

Chlorine has a powerful affinity for hydrogen. If you put a rag saturated with turpentine into a jar of chlorine it will immediately catch fire. It is also a powerful disinfectant. If you put salt and black manganese in a vessel and pour on sulphuric acid, and set it in a room, it will neutralize noxious gases by combining with them and forming other compounds.

In consequence of its poisonous qualities, it is sometimes used to destroy rats on board of ships. When this gas is mixed with hydrogen gas in a vessel, and exposed to the sunlight, they will unite suddenly and make a violent explosion. Chlorine does not unite directly with oxygen, there are various compounds of these elements formed by certain processes which we cannot now explain. Hydro-chloric acid, which was formerly called muriatic acid, is composed of hydrogen and chlorine. This acid is much used in the arts. Common salt is a well known and important constituent of our food, and is valuable as a manure. The presence of common salt in the waters of the ocean serve, no doubt, to prevent them from becoming unhealthy by the generating of noxious gases. Thus we see that all the elements, so far as we have examined them, play an important part in all that serves to maintain our existence here.

THE FENIAN INVASION.

(Continued from page 176.)

Colonel Lowry's Report.

Fort Erie, C. W., 6 p.m.,
4th June, 1866.

SIR,—In accordance with your orders, I left Toronto, per train, at 2 p.m., on the 2nd instant, with four field guns, &c., under command of Captain Crowe, R.A., and accompanied by Col. Wolseley, A.Q.M.G., by Lieut. Turner, R.E., by Lieut. Dent, 47th, and by Lieut. Col. Cumberland, P.A.D.C., to the Governor General and Manager Director of the Northern Railway, who had kindly placed his services at my disposal. There were also two gentlemen, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Kingsmill, possessing considerable knowledge of the country of which we were to pass, attached to me by order of the Major General, and Mr. Hunter, Telegraphic Operator. On arrival at Oakville, I was joined by its Company of Rifle Volunteers, 52, rank and file, under Captain Chisholm. On arrival at Hamilton, I, requiring information, telegraphed to the officer commanding at Port Colborne, asking to know the state of affairs there, and requesting answer to St. Catharines. At the Hamilton station, I learned that the detachment of the 60th Royal Rifles and 16th Regiment, which had been at first ordered to join me there, had already proceeded by railway to reinforce Col. Peacocke who, the Superintendent of the Great Western Railway said, had twice telegraphed for reinforcements. Under these circumstances, and finding at St. Catharines no answer from Port Colborne, and that difficulty and delay would be occasioned in getting the train from the Great Western Railway to the line of the Welland Railroad, I determined to proceed to Clifton and thence to the support of Col. Peacocke, en route to Fort

Erie. I arrived at Clifton about 8 p.m., and was there, a few hours after, joined by Colonel Stephens, with a volunteer force to the number of 350, which had been despatched by steamer from Toronto to Port Dalhousie, to meet me at St. Catharines.—At Clifton I received pressing telegrams urging me to proceed to assume command at Port Colborne, whence I also received an urgent request for rations and ammunition, reported exhausted. Believing an early arrival at Fort Erie to be most important, I despatched all the rations and ammunition I could spare to Port Colborne. I telegraphed to Col. Peacocke to send Lieut. Colonel Villiers, if possible, across the country to Port Colborne to command the volunteers at that place; but soon finding that impossible, telegraphed to Capt. Akers, R. E., to assume that duty, adding that I did not anticipate pressure at that point. Having waited for the Erie Railway line to be cleared of other trains, I proceeded at 3 40 a.m., on the 3rd instant, to Black Creek, at which place I had telegraphed to the officers commanding detachments of the 60th Rifles and 16th Regiment, if not in communication with Col. Peacocke, to meet me at daybreak. After some delay, I was joined by 200 rank and file of the 60th, under Captain Travers, and by 140 rank and file of the 16th, under Captain Hogge. As the railway line had not been previously open for transport, I awaited its examination by Lieut.-Col., the Hon. J. H. Cameron, who had joined me at midnight, at Clifton, from some point in advance, and who proceeded with a locomotive engine for that purpose. On Lieut.-Col. Cameron's report that the road was passable, I proceeded to a point about three miles north of Fort Erie, called Frenchman's Creek, said to be the nearest point to where the Fenians were reported skirmishing, and fast escaping across the river. Here, unloading the force from the railway cars, I advanced with some volunteer companies, the detachments of the 16th Regiment and the 60th R. R. towards the Niagara river, throwing out an advance guard and a few skirmishers in the woods on either flank. As soon as two field-guns could be got out, they were pressed to the front; but on reaching the river, Col. Wolseley, found we were too late, and that Fenian prisoners, to the number, apparently, of some five or seven hundred, were in a large barge made fast astern of the United States war steamer, *Michigan*, lying in the centre of the stream. I reached Fort Erie at about 8.15, a.m., and found that the whole village had been abandoned. Soon afterwards, I was joined by the force under Col. Peacocke, who had come up through the woods to the right, bringing in some prisoners. The whole force was now hurriedly placed in position on the rising ground at the rear of the village of Erie. Shortly afterwards, a small steamer having been sent from the United States ship *Michigan* with the proposal that I should communicate with its Commander and Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, then with him, accompanied by Col. Wolseley, Captain Crowe, R.A., and Lieut. Turner, R. E., I proceeded on board and had an interview with Capt. Bryson, U. S. N.; M. Dant, U. S. District Attorney, Mr. H. W. Hemans, H. M. Consul at Buffalo, and subsequently with General Barry, commanding the United States troops in the Erie and Ontario dis-