

sion had, we learned, marched on St. Catharines, leaving outposts along the Niagara River, to communicate with ours. These outposts were formed of companies of infantry, with two troops of cavalry for patrols and videttes.

On the 12th of June a report came that the enemy was advancing by two roads on Port Colborne, and that their advanced guard had exchanged shots across the canal with our force at Stone Bridge, about 1½ miles from Port Colborne. The east half of the village had been destroyed (under orders) some days previously, and earthworks thrown upon the west side, from the shelter of which our men had an opportunity to engage with the enemy at long range. Little execution was done, however, and at about three in the afternoon the enemy's gunboats came into range and soon shelled our men from their position. Trains being in waiting, they were soon embarked, and at daybreak the next morning the enemy advanced and took possession of our works; repairing, and building bridges over the canal, and destroying the lock-gates. The 3rd Brigade of ours, after leaving Port Colborne destroyed the bridges on the Grand Trunk, retired on Dunville, crossing the river, and entrenching themselves on the west side.

On the 14th the 2nd Brigade left Port Robinson, being replaced by the regular Brigade. We marched through to Welland port, and there halted for the night, keeping up communication with Port Robinson and being exactly parallel with the enemy, although separated by a series of swamps and the Chippewa creek. Here we heard that the enemy's gunboats had taken possession of port Maitland, and had got within range of Dunville, drilling our men from their earthworks as before.

The 3rd Brigade again retired along the line of the Grand Trunk Railroad to a point about 12 miles west, the 4th Brigade of ours, with the regulars from Brantford, joining them; it was determined to make a stand. Our right consisting of the regulars and 4th Brigade of volunteers, rested on the Grand River, extending to the line of the Grand Trunk Railway. My own Brigade, (2nd) arriving, we took the left of the line, while the 3rd went into reserve on the line of the G. T. R. The baggage and knapsacks being put on the cars, we threw up a line of earthworks, and bivouacked behind them. It fell to my lot to form the outlying picket for our Brigade, and with no small anxiety did I look forward to the probable events of the night and morning.

At about 3 o'clock the alarm was sounded on the right, and a few dropping shots were heard, but next morning soon after daybreak sharp artillery firing commenced on the extreme right, from which we augured that the enemy advancing by the river road were trying conclusions with us. My picket being relieved, we tried to get something to

ent, but failed, as our commissariat was not up to the mark, and the three days cooked provisions taken from Port Robinson were exhausted.

From some of our better provided friends we got a hasty meal, and I sallied out to see what could be seen. It was a lovely June morning, with a soft haze rising from the fields that lay stretched before us, rich in the verdure of spring. A fringe of woods skirted the rising ground on the right of the railroad track, and lounging about beneath the trees, were the gallant "Queen's Own," next lay the 36th, more conspicuous in their red coats; and on a semi-circular ridge that flanked their lines, was the Hamilton field Battery in position.

On their left again lay the right wing of the 44th, their left wing furnishing the skirmishers that covered our lines. On the extreme left were my own men, partially concealed in a wood, in front of which was a swamp skirting the south branch of the Chippewa Creek. Thus much could I see from my point of observation. The remainder of the force was, I believe distributed as follows. The 29th Regulars occupied the river road, and bank; having felled trees as abatis on their left; and on a height commanding the road, was a division of Royal Artillery, with the cavalry in their rear; next on the left were the 13th, 20th, and a provisional Battalion from Wentworth; the regulars furnishing the skirmishers. Their position was equally good with our own; the heights being fringed with woods, and open fields for about 1000 yards in front of them. While I watched I could see sharp irregular puffs of smoke rise from our skirmishing lines on the right and the deadened sound of the report reached the ear soon after.

The firing soon became pretty general along the line, and about 7.30 our skirmishers began to retire. I could not help contrasting the precision with which the regulars accomplished this, and the helter-skelter of our own men. "Every man to his trade," however, and our men, on seeing the example set them, began to retire with less confusion. Presently the Artillery on our left opened out, and soon after I could see blue jackets among the snake fences in front. They advanced in no regular line, but with a reckless rapidity, and disregard of cover, that did not tell well for their experience. They proved to be the 74th New York State Volunteers. Shortly after this the halt was sounded from the enemy's line and the skirmish line lay down, still keeping up their firing. At this point I noticed the superiority of our arms, their bullets constantly falling short, while those from our men were occasionally telling in their lines. We now saw three dark lines form under cover of a wood on our left front, and presently a cloud of skirmishers extended from the first line, and re-enforced their skirmish line; the whole advancing. During this

time our right had been busily engaged; our artillery pounding away, and the firing increasing.

We soon had as much as we could do ourselves, our skirmishers falling back followed by the enemy at an unsteady run, yelling like demons. By some fatal error they changed obliquely across our lines towards the railway, and then, although scarcely within 400 yards of us, a storm of bullets rained upon them, and the next minute they were scattered over the field in confusion. Whilst this happened, their second line was advancing, and again the same scene was enacted. The third line came on more steadily, and less quickly; but again took that fatal and oblique direction.

They were mown down in the same way, and retired hopelessly demoralized. Elated with this success, our men cheered again and again, but changed their tune, when a few moments later, the enemy's Artillery was brought to bear in the direction of their shouts.

They appeared to have about twelve guns and they were well and quickly served. But lying close to their earthworks, our men suffered little, and after an hour's shell practice from both sides, with little effect, a fresh effort was made to storm our lines.

This resulted in partial success, for the second line gained a footing on the earthworks of the 36th, and a hand to hand fight ensued, in which our men were victorious. Not a moment too soon, however, for the third line seeing the advantage pressed on quickly; but were opportunely caught by a shower of canister from our guns, and again routed. This defeat seemed to change the plans of the opposing general. He drew off from the left altogether, and concentrated his attack on the right. We afterwards learned that the attack on the left was to create a diversion. Presently we saw a Battalion and a division of the Royal Artillery move from our reserve towards the right; and found that the enemy had got a Battery across the river, and was delivering an effectual flanking fire. Our right slowly wheeled back, fighting every inch, till our lines were almost like a  $\Delta$ , leaving the river road open. The half battery last brought up, being mowed on the road now opened, and completely enveloped the enemy, who were pressing our men as they retired. Meanwhile the cavalry on the right had left their position, and an order was brought to our cavalry to take their place. All this time the battery across the river was annoying us greatly, and it was with the greatest excitement that we saw our cavalry emerge from the woods to the left of the guns, and boldly charge them.

To be continued.

It has been ascertained from an official source that Austria has made no offer of an asylum to the Pope, and the reports that his Holiness intends to leave Rome are discredited at Vienna.