

him with a body of regulars and some artillery, he determined to retreat to Fort Erie, and keep open his communication with Buffalo; he accordingly fell back rapidly on the fort, arriving there about two o'clock in the afternoon. Meanwhile a tug-boat from Port Colborne, with Lieutenant-Colonel Dennis and a company of about seventy men, had arrived at the fort, captured the sixty Fenians left in charge of it, and taken possession. O'Neil on his arrival at once attacked the fort and speedily recaptured it, thirteen of the volunteers being wounded and forty made prisoners; he did not recapture his own prisoners, however, as they had been conveyed to the tug and secured in the hold. The Fenians lost five men in the attack besides many wounded. Meanwhile the Fenian sympathizers in Buffalo were making great efforts to reinforce O'Neil; and near midnight about four hundred men, with plenty of arms and provisions, were embarked in two canal boats, and towed out of the harbor, with the intention of crossing to Fort Erie. But by this time O'Neil had made up his mind that he had had enough of Canada; already numbers of his men had deserted and escaped to the American side in small boats, and when he saw the barges being towed over, he sent a small boat to intercept them, ordered the troops to return, and the barges to be brought back empty for his men to recross to Buffalo. This was done, and early on Sunday morning about nine hundred of the Fenians embarked on the boats, and were tugged over to the American side; but here they met with a new difficulty, the American authorities were now fully aroused, and the armed propeller *Harrison* intercepted the boats, and soon had them anchored under the guns of the *Michigan*. The Fenians who were left on Canadian soil endeavored to escape as best they could, some crossed in small boats, others tried to cross on planks, and some took to the woods and were captured on Sunday, when Peacock's forces came up. The prisoners taken by the Fenians were left in Fort Erie, and those Fenians who had been captured were sent to Toronto jail.

8.—The Fenian organs in New York claimed that the movement of O'Neil was only intended as a feint, and, of course, magnified the success of the raid; and their second attempt the following week showed that a combined movement had been intended, but failed for want of proper organization. At the same time that O'Neil was invading Canada from Fort Erie, other bodies were collecting at Ogdensburg and St. Albans, the former being intended to cross to Prescott and attack Ottawa; but the rapid massing of two thousand troops at Prescott, and the appearance of a British gunboat in the river effectually checked any attempt to cross, and they moved downwards to Malone, menacing Cornwall, but the concentration of three thousand volunteers there foiled any effort in that direction. The last attempt at invasion was made from St.

End of the Fenian invasion.

Albans, from whence about two thousand men, under command of a man called Spear, crossed the border on the seventh of June and advanced three miles into the country to a place called Pigeon Hill, where they formed a camp and sent out parties foraging the country, robbing hen-roosts, &c.; but the advance of some troops on the eighth caused them to make a hasty retreat across the frontier, where Spear and some of the other leaders were arrested by the United States authorities. By this time President Johnson had discovered that unless he wanted to involve the United States in war with Great Britain, he must take rigorous measures to suppress the Fenians; he therefore despatched Meade to the Canada frontier, and that officer at once seized all the arms and ammunition he could find at Ogdensburg, prevented any more reinforcements coming North, arrested all the leaders he could catch, and sent the bulk of the Fenians back to New York and other points they had come from. Within a few days after Meade's arrival at Ogdensburg, all was quiet along the frontier; nor was any further attempt made during the summer; gunboats guarded the lakes and river and troops were stationed along the frontier so as to render any further attempt abortive. Thus ended the first Fenian raid. The actual loss inflicted was not very heavy, but the expense of calling out forty thousand volunteers, and keeping them in the field, was very great, and the loss of life was sadly felt throughout Canada. The University of Toronto erected a handsome monument to the memory of those who fell at Ridgeway, in the Queen's Park, Toronto; and a grateful country showed its appreciation of its citizen-soldiers by pensions to widows and orphans, and compensation to those who fell.

9.—While the Fenian excitement was still at its height Parliament assembled, on the eighth of June, for the first time in the new Parliament buildings, Ottawa. Lord Monck in opening the session spoke of the necessity for finding new channels for trade to supply the place of that lost by the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and referred to the commission sent to the West Indies, &c., which we have already referred to. With reference to the Fenian invasion he asked to have the *Habeas Corpus* act suspended, and also said that the revenue receipts had been so much in excess of the estimates, that he had been able to meet the large expense caused by the raids out of current receipts. The most important act passed during the session was the one altering the tariff by reducing the rate on imported goods from twenty per cent to fifteen, but at the same time some encouragement was given to home manufactures by placing a number of articles, which entered largely into manufactures, on the free list. Resolutions were introduced and passed, defining the constitutions of Upper and Lower

Last session of the Parliament of the Province of Canada.