

## OPERATIONS AT PRESCOT.

As in the rebellion of 1837, a *sympathy* in behalf of the disaffected Canadians now existed along the borders, and they concentrated their whole force upon the Prescott frontier, with the intention of taking that town. An attempt had already been made, the report of which reached Montreal by despatch, when Colonel Wetherall, with two flank companies of the Royals, commenced a forced march to its support. On our way, we passed Fort Coteau du Lac, an important post on the St. Lawrence, which had been dismantled, and the guns thrown into the river, of which sixteen twenty-four pounders, and four hundred round shot were subsequently recovered. This was effected through the exertions of the commandant Major Bell, Royal Regiment, in the depth of winter, notwithstanding the attempt had been declared impracticable. We reached Prescott too late to witness the dislodgement of the rebels, but gained the following intelligence:—

At midnight of November 11, two schooners, having on board between four and five hundred armed men, appeared off Ogdensburg, directly fronting the town of Prescott, which is bounded by the St. Lawrence, at that part about a mile wide. Suspicions of a hostile intention from the borderers had been long entertained, although the place of destination remained altogether in doubt; and as a precautionary measure, a guard of observation was stationed ashore, while the naval force, under Captain Sandon, R. N. cruised between Kingston and Prescott. Consequently the movements of the Sympathisers did not pass unheeded; the *Experiment*, steamer, Lieutenant-Fowle, R. N. mounting three guns only, was on the look-out; and on shore, a call to arms was sounded, and a general muster of all who could procure fire-arms, or other implements wherewith to repel the brigands. This force comprised a company of Glengarry volunteers enlisted in the Queen's service; the militia of Johnstown district, only a few days arrived; with some few of the townsmen; in all not more than three hundred men; and for these there were but few arms, and a small quantity of powder.

At an early hour on the morning of the 12th, one of the schooners endeavoured to effect a landing at a wharf, but, to her surprise, was hailed by Lieutenant-Colonel Young, accompanied by Mr. Jones a magistrate, with about ten or twelve others; when she hoisted sail, and cast anchor at her old moorings, but must have soon got under weigh again, for at half-past seven the ferry-boat *Paul Pry* arrived with information that the steamer *United States* had been forcibly seized by three hundred of her men. The report was soon verified by the *United States*