

May 14th.—Marched for Lepine's Crossing. Having halted for dinner, I received information that Riel was somewhere in the vicinity, so determined to make for Guardapui or Short's Crossing, which was some miles nearer, and camp for the night.

May 15th.—I sent out parties of mounted men, under Major Boulton, to scour the woods. In the afternoon two scouts—Armstrong and Hourie—who had been sent out with Boulton and had moved away by themselves, came upon Riel, who gave himself up, producing my letter to him, in which I summoned him to surrender and promised to protect him until his case was considered by the Canadian Government. The scouts brought him into my camp and I made a prisoner of him, as you are aware. Before bringing to your notice the conduct of the whole force, and the names of those officers whose duties during those four days, on account of their rank or appointment, necessarily brought them more prominently under my personal notice, I would here beg to be allowed, in justice to the gallant little force under my command, to draw attention to its actual strength and weapons, about which there seems to be some strange misconception, not only in the English press, but even in that of the Dominion. In one of the English papers I am represented as having been waiting at Fish Creek for reinforcements, of having asked for 1,500 more men, and as having been reinforced by the Midland Regiment, and as having fought with 1,000 men, and arms superior to the enemy. The real facts of the case being as follows: I was waiting at Fish Creek, as you know, to get rid of my wounded and get oats up, and not for reinforcements. Only 100 men of the Midland Regiment reached me then, under Lieut.-Col. Williams, and as I had lost, killed and wounded, nearly 60 men, and had to put 35 men on board the "Northcote," my actual reinforcement was 5 men. As regards the actual number of men engaged out of my total force of 724 officers and men, owing to having to leave 100 men to protect my camp, leaving wounded and sick men, cooks, ammunition carriers, assistants to ambulances, &c., I was only able to bring 495 men into the engagement, and this included the artillery and Gatling, which, owing to the nature of the position, were not able to do so much damage as the infantry. So that with about 400 men we drove, with heavy loss, a force of (taking the lowest estimation) 600 half-breeds and Indians, many of them armed with long range rifles, and who were considered the finest and best prairie fighters in the country, out of a strong position, carefully selected and entrenched by themselves. After this I need say no more concerning the conduct, during the engagement, of the whole force. From my second in command, Lieut.-Col. Straubenzio, I received every assistance, and on the 12th his leading of his brigade was beyond praise. Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., showed great coolness under fire, and was in command of the zareba during the action of the 12th. Capt. Haig, R.E., my A.Q.M.G., was very useful to me, and cool under fire; he is a most energetic and willing officer, and has been of much service to me all along, especially in rendering the zareba safe from the enemy's dropping fire, and all other work requiring an engineer's knowledge. Lieut.-Col. Lord Melgund, who was my chief of the Staff for some time, was also of great service while with me, on the 9th. Capt. Young, of the Winnipeg Field Battery, Brigade Major, has done most excellent service throughout the campaign, and is deserving of great praise for the way in which he performed his staff duties. I selected him to take charge of Riel from the time he surrendered, and while he was in camp Capt. Young slept in the tent with him, and afterwards conveyed him safely to Regina. My A.D.C., Lieut. Freer, 38th Regiment, "B" Company, School of Infantry Instruction, deserves great praise for the way in which he performed his duties while continually exposed to the fire of the enemy. I have already brought to your notice the gallant way in which he went to assist in withdrawing a wounded man under the fire of the enemy. The conduct of Lieut.-Cols. Montizambert, commanding artillery, Williams, commanding Midland Regiment, Lieut.-Col. Grassett, commanding Grenadiers, and Major McKeand, commanding 90th Regiment, was everything I could wish. Lieut.-Col. Williams and Lieut.-Col. Grassett came prominently to my notice, from the gallant way in which they led and cheered their men on the left, rush by rush, until they gained the houses on the plain, the