It will afford great pleasure to Major-Gen. Smith, and to the officers of his command, to meet you here previous to the proposed visit, should you find it desirable to come, and to render you any assistance possible in making the necessary arrangements.

I have, &c.

J. L. PALMER,
Aide-de-Camp to Major-Gen. Smith.

Lt. Col. THOMAS WILY,
    Commanding Montreal Vol. M. Rifles.

On the 2d of August, Lt. Col. Dyde received the following very cautious and guarded reply to his renewed application on behalf of the officers and men who intended making the excursion to Portland :—

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Toronto, 31st July, 1858.

SIR,—Having submitted to His Excellency the Governor-General your letter of the 30th instant, relative to a portion of the Active Force at Montreal taking their arms with them to Portland, in the United States, on an excursion, I am directed to give you the following reply, viz :

His Excellency will give no sanction to the arms being taken out of the Province, because they are entrusted to him as public property, and while they are out of the Province they are out of his control. This is the sole reason on His Excellency's part. His Excellency does not forbid them being taken, nor will he consider it as a breach of orders, but it will be done on the responsibility of the officers themselves; and His Excellency does not authorise them entering the United States as an armed body.

I have, &c.

A. DE SALABERRY, Lt. Col.,
D. A. G. Militia, L. C.

Lt. Col. DYDE,
    Commandant Active Force, Montreal.

This *quasi* sort of leave having been obtained, the Lt. Colonel and Captains concerned did not hesitate for a moment to accept the responsibility thus thrown upon them. Knowing the men they had to deal with, they had confidence enough to believe that this responsibility would be merely nominal. The preparations which in the interim had been suspended, were resumed with renewed