

In one of the official despatches quoted in his "Narrative," the Governor, Sir Francis B. Head, reports that bands of militiamen from all directions poured in upon him. According to the best reports he could collect, from 10,000 to 12,000 men simultaneously marched towards the capital.

Sir Francis certainly had reason to congratulate himself upon this splendid, spontaneous display of loyalty, for he had allowed the Province to be denuded of regular troops. In his despatch No. 132, under date December 18th, 1837, he enumerated his available force of regular troops as follows:—Colonel Foster, commander of the forces in Upper Canada; Captain Boddeley, Royal Engineers; and 8 Royal Artillerymen—truly a meagre array.

Some of the Dragoons formed part of the column of 500 men despatched from Toronto on December 9th, under Colonel Allan MacNab, to put down the revolutionary movement in the London district, where at one time Dr. Duncombe had a force of 300 rebels in arms. The force reached Scotland Village, the centre of the disaffected district, December 14th, just a week later than the affair at Montgomery's, but the rebel force had dispersed and their leader had disappeared.

MacNab's force was marched without any unnecessary delay from Ingersoll to Chippewa, opposite Navy Island.

George T. Denison, Jr., of that day (later of Rusholme), has let us catch a glimpse of the column's service in an article written for the "Canadian Monthly," of April, 1873. He writes:—"We had performed our share of garrison duty from the 4th to the 7th, and had taken part in the so-called battle of Gallows Hill. We had also gone through the winter march to the Village of Scotland, and on to Ingersoll under Sir Allan MacNab. Thence we were marched to Chippewa, where the company in which I was a lieutenant was stationed as part of the force besieging Navy Island."

Although, looked at from an historical point of view, the years of the rebellion do not seem very far back, there are but few who at this date appreciate the gravity of the crisis which then existed, and who realize how long the excitement and the risk of international complications lasted. The affair at Montgomery's by no means put a period to the disaffection and feeling of unrest. The Navy Island affair, with its "Caroline" incident, December 29th, 1837, the Barcelona affair, January, 1838; the bombardment of Amherstburg by the "Anne," in the same month; the descent of the patriots and sympathizers on Fighting Island in the Detroit River, February 25th; the sharp skirmish on Point Pelee Island on Lake Erie, on March 3rd, when a detachment of Her Majesty's Thirty-second Regiment was present; Moreau's raid (fatal for him) into Pelham Township of Niagara, June 7th; and the more familiar raid from Detroit per steamer "Champlain," near Windsor, in the first week of December, 1838, were but incidents tending to show that there was much real danger from filibustering expeditions along the western frontier from Michigan and western New York. In fact, each one of the attempts represent a distinct organized raid launched upon Canadian soil from across the frontier of a supposedly friendly state. Along the eastern frontier there was as much excitement and more real fighting. The sensational destruction of the "Sir Robert Peel" took place May 29th, 1838, and the fighting at Prescott Windmill took place in November, 1838. The raid at Windsor and Sandwich, the participants in which found their Nemesis in Colonel Prince, who shot several of his prisoners in short order, was the last organized invasion of Canada at this time, but there was after that a few isolated outbreaks to be attended to.