

of Militia, in all 180 rank and file, had been placed. The mill was a stone building 50ft. by 36ft., two stories in height, walls eighteen inches thick, with a shingled roof; it was situated on the south bank of the La Colle river about three quarters of a mile from its junction with the Richelieu. The mill had been placed in a state of defence by filling up the windows with logs leaving horizontal interstices through which to fire. On the north bank of the river a little to the west of the mill was a small house connected with it by a bridge, it was converted into a block house by a breastwork of logs in rear of this was a large barn to which nothing had been done. The breadth of clear ground in front or to the southward of the mill was about 200 and to the northward 100 yards, but on the flanks the woods were much closer.

At Whitman's on the left bank of the Richelieu, distant two miles below the mill, was a company of the 13th regiment, at Bartonville, two miles up La Colle River, two companies of Canadian Militia were posted; the direct road into the Province crossed at this point but the bridge had been removed. At Isle-aux-Noix was a garrison of 550 rank and file, and at St. Johns, twenty-one miles from La Colle, about 750 rank and file, the whole British force within twenty two miles of La Colle Mill and thirty miles of General Wilkinson's headquarters, amounted in regulars to 1000 men and in militia to 450. The American army commenced its march for the fourth attempt at invasion of Canada on the morning of the 30th March, at 10 a.m., along roads ankle deep in snow; owing to a blunder of the guides they took the road to Bartonville and did not discover their mistake till they had fired upon and driven in a small picquet of the garrison, they then countermarched and after a second mistake entered the main road near Odeltown about three miles from the mill. The road had been purposely obstructed by felled trees which the advancing army were compelled to remove and after a smart action with a picquet in which they lost one officer and twelve men killed or wounded they arrived before the mill at half-past one in the afternoon. The results of the action that ensued is told in the following despatch:—

LA COLLE, 31st March, 1814.

SIR:—I beg leave to acquaint you that I have just received from Major Hancock of the 13th regiment, commanding at the block-house on La Colle river, a report stating that the outposts on the roads from Bartonville and La Colle Mill, leading from Odeltown, were attacked at an early hour yesterday morning by the enemy in great force, collected from Plattsburg and Burlington, under the command of Major General Wilkinson. The attack on the Bartonville road was soon over when the enemy showed themselves on the road from the Mill that leads direct to Odeltown, where they drove in a picquet stationed in advance of La Colle about a mile and a-half distant, and soon after the enemy established a battery of three guns (12 pounders) in the

wood. With this artillery they began to fire on the Mill when Major Hancock, hearing of the arrival of the flank companies of the 13th regiment at the block house, ordered an attack on the guns, which, however, was not successful from the wood being so thick and filled with men. Soon after another opportunity presented itself when the Canadian Grenadier company and a company of Voltigeurs attempted the guns, but the very great superiority of the enemy's numbers hid in the woods prevented their taking them. I have to regret the loss of many brave and good soldiers in these two attacks, and am particularly sorry to lose the services, for a short time, of Captain Ellard of the 13th regiment, from being wounded while gallantly leading his company. The enemy withdrew their artillery towards nightfall and retired towards morning from the Mill taking the road to Odeltown. Major Hancock speaks in high terms of obligation to Captain Ritter, of the frontier Light Infantry, who, from his knowledge of the country, was of great service.

The marine detachment under Lieutenant Caldwell and Barton, the Canadian Grenadier company and the company of Voltigeurs, as well as all the troops employed, the Major expresses himself in high terms of praise for their conduct so honorable to the service.

Major Hancock feels exceedingly indebted to Captain Pring, Royal Navy, for his ready and prompt assistance in moving up the sloop and gunboats from Isle au Noix to the entrance of the La Colle River, the fire from which was so destructive. Lieutenant Cuswick and Hicks, of the Royal Navy, were most actively zealous in forwarding two guns from the boats and getting them up to the mill. To Major Hancock the greatest praise is due for his most gallant defence of the mill against such superior numbers, and I earnestly trust it will meet the approbation of His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces. I have the honor to transmit a list of the killed and wounded of the British; that of the enemy, from all accounts I can collect from the inhabitants, must have been far greater.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

WILLIAM WILLIAMS,

Lieut. Col. 13th Regiment, commanding at St. John's.

His Excellency, Sir George, Provost Barr., Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.

The British loss was 12 killed, 47 wounded, and 4 missing; total, 63. The Americans lost, 13 killed, 138 wounded, and 13 missing; total, 154. The great loss of the small British force engaged, not exceeding 340 men, is to be accounted for by the fact of the desperate charges made to capture the American artillery by two companies of regulars and militia, and so determined were these attempts that they actually reached within a few yards of the battery, killing every artilleryman and receiving its fire, as well as that of the two brigades of infantry in support, before they retired on each occasion. These facts are taken from the sworn evidence of American officers of rank on General Wilkinson's Court Martial.

The American force retreated to Champlain, and immediately afterwards in some confusion to Plattsburg, owing to the concentration of a strong British force at St. John's. Thus disgracefully ended the first invasion of Canada.

"A FOOL'S ERRAND."

Such is the language in which the principal organ of the ruling English Radicals, has chosen to describe the mission of Hon. Mr. Campbell to England.

In using such language with reference to a representative of the Dominion of Canada, sent on an errand by the people of this country to Great Britain, we are at a loss to determine whether the *Daily News* has displayed more of stupidity than of impudence. In its extreme anxiety to toady to the Washington authorities, it seems to have utterly failed to comprehend the object aimed at by the visit of Mr. Campbell, and seizes the first opportunity to fling an insult into the face of the Canadian people.

We have not sent Mr. Campbell on "a fool's errand." He has gone to England at the instance, and in compliance with the demand of the whole people of every party in the country; and there is no misrepresentation on this side, as to the necessity of the step, nor in reference to the object sought to be accomplished. We have come to the conclusion that a state suspense is not our normal condition; that with unsettled political relations, with a cloud of the most painful uncertainty suspended over us, we cannot go on and prosper as we ought to do. We desire to know also, once for all, whether we are to be constantly exposed to filibustering depredations on our border without remonstrance or interference on the part of the Mother Country. We do not wish to fight the battles of Great Britain on this continent, and then leave all the credit and all the applause due to success lavished on those who are morally responsible for the whole difficulty, and who might nip it in the bud, if so disposed. In a word, we desire to know just what our position is, what are our duties, our dangers, and our reliance in the hour of danger?

It is because we believe that Hon. Mr. Campbell's mission will have the effect of securing a definite and decisive answer to all one of these grave questions, that he has been sent to England at this particular stage. We believe it will have the effect of evoking a final declaration of the Imperial policy with reference to this country; that it will force on a crisis and rid us of that miserable state of suspense, which is the most disagreeable of all possible situations for individuals or nationalities.

The last Fenian raid has aroused the public sentiment of the country in the vital questions relating to our public existence; and the public feeling has found expression in the sending of a representative to learn positively what is to be and what is not to be. Such a mission as this cannot by any kind of fairness be described as either "a fool's errand," or "a wild goose chase;" and we regard the application of such odious and offensive terms by the *Daily News* as a distinct, international insult to Canada, which is disgraceful to the journal which has so far lost its sense of decency and self-respect as to notice it.—*Toronto Telegraph*.

LONGEVITY IN THE BRITISH NAVY.—It would seem that the army and navy are very healthy professions. Out of 876 general officers in the British and Indian army who were alive on the first of January last, eight had seen 70 years of active services. There are, we take it, but few professions in which one man in every hundred sees 70 years of work without retiring. But the army is in this respect behind the Navy. Out of 307 admirals who were alive at the same date, no fewer than 26, or nearly nine per cent. had served before the year 1800.