

unopposed, he found himself listened to eagerly by a few powerless individuals who had become his adherents from misrepresentations and falsehoods, which every hour was dispelling; besides this, he had reason to believe that his New York creditors (who I understand have now imprisoned him) were actually on the road to Toronto to arrest him for his debts.

Under these circumstances he determined to make a desperate effort to rob the banks of Toronto, which he well knew were teeming with specie, and there can be no doubt, if he and Dr. Rolph had succeeded in this plot, that they would have immediately absconded to the United States, and that the reformers of Upper Canada, deserted by their agitators, would have been exhibited as a moral in politics instructive to the world.

With this object in view, Mr. M'Kenzie made every exertion to collect a crowd. To those ripe for plunder and revolution he mysteriously alluded to the coffers of the bank; others he gained by assuring them that the chief justice of the province was ready to join them; others were told that the receiver-general would declare himself in their favour; all were assured that clouds of Americans were marching to join them.

By falsehoods of this nature, and by indefatigable exertions, Mr. M'Kenzie managed to delude about 500 men, who were secretly warned to assemble at Montgomerie's Tavern on the night of the 4th of December.

Although this intended arrangement was known only to a few guilty individuals, yet the publication of Mr. M'Kenzie's last weekly newspaper, and other circumstances, induced the attorney-general to believe that the traitor was at last within the reach of the firm grasp of the law. Accordingly, having assembled my council, as also the law officers of the Crown, we unanimously adopted resolutions which were committed to writing, and of which the following is a copy:—

1. *Resolved*, That Mr. M'Kenzie be arrested for high treason, immediately after the publication of his next paper.
2. *Resolved*, That he be committed to some place of safe keeping in Toronto.
3. *Resolved*, That his papers be seized if found treasonable.
4. *Resolved*, That two regiments of militia be organized and armed.
5. *Resolved*, That a body of militia be placed in charge of the fort.
6. *Resolved*, That the militia artillery be increased as the adjutant-general shall advise.

The very day before these arrangements were to be executed, Mr. M'Kenzie (on the 4th of December) carried his insane project into effect, by assembling his 500 deluded followers. Abandoning Government-house, I immediately retired to the arms which I have already stated I had placed in a position, which, to troops without artillery, was impregnable.

From this spot I immediately wrote and despatched three notes in pencil, as follows:

“Militia of ————— forwards.”

“F. B. H.”

On the promulgation of these words, 10,000 men, in the depth of winter, at once rushed to my assistance.

On the 7th of December, Mr. M'Kenzie's conspiracy tumbled to pieces like a rope of sand in all directions; he and his victims fled before the militia; the leaders absconded to the United States, and so completely were they defeated, that the following day placards by my order were posted on all the public roads, proclaiming that there was no further occasion for the resort of militia to Toronto; and seeing that I could now safely afford to lend assistance to the Lower Province, I at once, by a general militia order, placed the militia of the seven eastern counties of Upper Canada at the disposal of Sir John Colborne.

*Answer 3.* The insurrection in Upper Canada having been thus completely quelled, I suddenly learnt (I own with astonishment) that the republican citizens of the United States were preparing to invade us! A body of these citizens, under an American leader, accordingly violated and took possession of Navy Island, the territory of Her Britannic Majesty. Public meetings were assembled in various parts of the United States; public subscriptions were entered into; placards, headed by the American Eagle, and signed by a committee of 10 or 12 citizens, were openly displayed, calling for arms, ammunition, and provisions. The government arsenals on the frontier (in which, strange to say, were found all ready-deposited, immense quantities of arms) were broken open and plundered in broad daylight;