

because so many adverse criticisms are current, that it is but fair all parties concerned should be fully heard; and because the ordinary newspapers, in which these reports have already appeared, are not in a convenient form for binding or preserving for future reference.

The first is the report of Lieut. Col. Peacocke, of H. M. 16th Regiment, lying at Hamilton, who had command of the force until the arrival of Col. Lowry, of the 47th Regiment. The second is the report of Lieut. Col. Booker, who commanded the Volunteers in the engagement at Limeridge, and, as relating to the same engagement, we here introduce a letter from the Rev. N. Burwash, present with the troops. The third is Col. Lowry's report. The fourth is the report of Lieut. Col. Dennis, commanding the force on the tug Robb. The fifth is the report of Capt. Akers, R.E., acting with Col. Dennis; and the last is the report of Capt. McCallum, of the Dunville Naval Brigade, and owner and commander of the tug Robb.

Col. Peacocke's Report.

"FORT ERIE, 4th, June 1866.

"SIR,—I have the honor to make the following report of my operations in the field since the 1st inst. In compliance with a telegram received from you, I joined at 2 o'clock, at Hamilton, with 200 men of my own battalion, the force proceeding from Toronto to St. Catharines, consisting of one battery of Royal Artillery, under the command of Lieut. Col. Hoste, C.B., and 200 men of the 47th Regiment, under the command of Major Lodder. You had also placed under my command, for the defence of the frontier, 7 companies of the volunteer force stationed at St. Catharines, under the command of Lieut. Col. Currie; the Queen's Own Regiment of volunteers at Port Colborne, and the 13th Battalion of volunteer militia, commanded by Lieut. Col. Booker, at Dunville; and you had informed me that I should be reinforced at St. Catharines by 800 men. Your instructions were that I was to make St. Catharines my base, to act according to my own discretion, to advance on Clifton or elsewhere, and to attack the enemy as soon as I could do so with a force sufficient to ensure success. On arriving at St. Catharines, I received telegrams to the effect that the Fenians, about 800 strong, were marching on the Suspension Bridge, and were actually two or three miles from Chippewa; I pushed on immediately to the Bridge, leaving orders for all troops arriving at St. Catharines to follow me as soon as possible. On reaching the Bridge, I heard that the enemy had not yet reached Chippewa, and being anxious to save the bridge over the creek, I pressed on with 400 infantry, preceded by a pilot engine—the battery marching by road in consequence of the reported want of platform accommodation at the Chippewa station. It was dark when we arrived at Chippewa. We bivouacked there that night. I there received numerous reports from scouts sent out by Mr. Kirkpatrick, the reeve. They agreed generally in

the statement that the Fenians had entrenched themselves roughly a little below Fort Erie, at Frenchman's Creek, and had sent on a party towards Chippewa. Their strength was variously estimated from 800 to 1,500. I resolved on effecting a junction with the force at Port Colborne, to which place I had already ordered the battalion from Dunville. With this object in view, I selected Stevensville as the point of junction, and having explained to Captain Akers, of the Royal Engineers, who accompanied the force from Toronto, what my object was, and that this point was chosen, because, judging from information received, we could not be anticipated at it by the evening. I despatched that officer at 12 o'clock, to communicate with the officer commanding at Port Colborne, to make him conversant with my views and to make him meet me at Stevensville between ten and eleven o'clock next morning, informing him that I should start at six o'clock. I continued to send out scouts during the night, and to receive reports which made me believe that my information was correct, and that the enemy had not left their camp. At about two o'clock, I received a telegram from Colonel Booker, despatched before he was joined by Captain Akers, informing me that he had given orders to attack the enemy at Fort Erie. At about half-past three I received another one from Captain Akers, despatched after he had reached Port Colborne, saying the enemy was at French Creek, and proposing that Lieut. Col. Booker's force should advance on Fort Erie and join us at Frenchman's Creek. At about 4.30 o'clock, I was joined by the seven companies of volunteers from St. Catharines formed into a battalion 350 strong, under Lieut. Col. Currie, and by the expected reinforcement under Lieut. Col. Villiers, of the 47th Regiment, which consisted of 150 men of the 47th, and of the 10th Royals, 415 strong, under Major Boxall. The volunteers being unprovided with the means of carrying provisions and of cooking them, had not been able to comply with an order I had sent the previous evening, that they were to bring provisions in their haversacks. I saw that the absolute necessity of furnishing them with some would cause delay, and I telegraphed to Port Colborne that I should be one hour later in starting. We marched at 7 o'clock, leaving the Garrison Volunteer Battery, from St. Catharines, under Captain Stoker, to hold Chippewa. The day was oppressively hot, and our guides took us by a road much longer than necessary. When about three miles from Stevensville, at about 11 o'clock, I received a few words from Lieut. Col. Booker, written at 7.30 o'clock, to the effect that he had just received my telegram, but that he was attacked in force by the enemy at a place three miles south of Stevensville. At the same time, I received information that he had retired on Ridgeway. I encamped a mile further on at a small place called New Germany, across a road leading due south to Stevensville. At about 4 o'clock, having gathered information that the enemy was falling back on Fort Erie, I left everything behind which would encumber the men and started to follow them. At the moment of starting we received an important accession to our strength by the arrival of the Cavalry Body Guard of His Excellency the Governor General, 55 strong, under Major Denison. We marched until dark, and