

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, DECEMBER 16, 1837.

LOWER CANADA.—The accounts of the civil war in Lower Canada are so various and conflicting that we find it difficult to ascertain the truth. In our last it was stated that Col. Wetherall had been repulsed with the loss of 300 men—on Monday, slips of paper were scattered in all directions announcing that the insurgents had been defeated at St. Charles, and that 1200 had been killed and 700 made prisoners. Later accounts, however, render it certain that the royalists were victorious. In the absence of any detailed official report of the capture of St. Charles, few persons, we presume, give full credence to the different statements of the Canada papers as to the number of killed and wounded, on either side, in the battle. To us they appear very contradictory. For instance, the *Canadians* are said 'to have fought like tigers,' to have made a 'most determined resistance'—with many other expressions laudatory of their bravery and valour, and yet almost in the same paragraphs, they assert that only 5 or 6 of the troops were killed, while on the part of the rebels nearly 300 were destroyed, and 40 or more made prisoners. Now this certainly does not appear like tiger-fighting, determined resistance, etc. etc. As far as we can unravel such intricate and perplexing accounts, we wish to set before our readers the simple truth and nothing but the truth. But when the labyrinth is so involved that we cannot find our way through it, we shall then as far as our limits will allow, and when we can obtain them, present our subscribers with the statements of both parties, and leave them to judge for themselves.

FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 15.

PUBLIC MEETING.—Pursuant to Public Notice, a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Halifax, took place this morning at the Mason Hall. We believe that more than 500 persons were present, among whom we noticed many of the Members of Her Majesty's late Council, the Chief Justice—several of the Clergy of various denominations—the Speaker and the Members of Assembly resident in town, and all whose respectability or standing in Society could add weight and influence to such a demonstration of attachment to the Sovereign, and to the discountenance of the rebellious disturbances which are agitating the Canadian portion of the Empire. The Meeting was addressed by the Honble. the Speaker of the House of Assembly who proposed the Resolutions, all of which were passed unanimously; and by Joseph Howe, Esq. and others. * * * Nine times nine cheers were given at the close, on motion of James B. Uniacke, Esq. for our Gracious Queen the Virgin Victoria; and the meeting broke up highly pleased that an opportunity had been afforded for a display of loyalty and patriotism not exceeded, we venture to say, by any Dependency of the British Crown.—*Times Office.*

ATTACK ON ST. DENIS.

About 10 o'clock on Wednesday night the troops which had left the city that afternoon in the St. George started from Sorel, under Colonel Gore, together with one of the two companies of the 56th, stationed at that place; the whole force thus consisting of the two flank companies of the 24th, under Lt. Colonel Hughes, the Light Company of the 32d, under Captain Markham, and one company of the 66th, under Captain Crompton, together with a small howitzer and a party of Artillery under Cornet Sweeney. For the sake of avoiding Bridges as much as possible, the detachment took the upper road on the east side of the river, running one concession back from the river itself. The weather was dreadful at the time of starting, and indeed through the whole march. The rain fell in torrents, and the roads were almost knee deep in mud and water. The troops, however, proceeded, as well as they could, all night, and, after a slight halt early in the morning, pushed on again. About 5 miles, or perhaps less, from St. Denis, the Cavalry, who were in advance, came to a bridge which had been destroyed, and saw at a little distance another bridge a little detour, they succeeded in passing a gully over which the first bridge had led, and while the main body were engaged in repairing it, charged the body at work on the second, and succeeded in capturing

two of them and driving off the rest before they had half completed their job. Five other Bridges, mostly quite small, were afterwards found broken down as the column advanced, and the delay required to repair them so as to allow of the passage of the howitzer, materially retarded the march and added to its difficulty.

At length, towards noon, and after a most harassing march of more than twelve hours, the detachment reached the outskirts of the village of St. Denis. The advanced guard of the Cavalry was fired on almost before it came within range, from the houses and barns on the road side, and immediately fell back to make report. Captain Markham's company was first ordered up, and afterwards the other companies. Several of the assailants were shot down by the skirmishers, and in a short time the houses and barns from which the first firing had taken place were cleared, by flight or otherwise, of their occupants, but not until Captain Markham, who was leading on the skirmishing party, had received four wounds, so severe, that he was carried off the ground, as it was then supposed mortally wounded. The attention of the troops was now directed to a large stone house of three stories, near the entrance of the village, which was strongly barricaded and garrisoned, and from which a most galling fire was kept up. The howitzer was brought to bear upon it, with very considerable effect, but unfortunately was not found sufficient to render it untenable. Towards half past two o'clock the ammunition of the troops and artillery was nearly expended, and it became necessary to retreat. Since an early hour in the morning the men had not tasted food. In the course of the march a large proportion of them had lost their shoes, and actually came into engagement bare-foot. The steambot *Vareunes*, which had been ordered to follow up the river from Sorel, a few hours after the march of the troops, with supplies of food and ammunition had not been heard of; the fact being that at St. Ours, 9 miles below, she had been obliged to put back by a fire of musketry from a small party on the bank of the river. The retreat was therefore commenced, and after bivouacking for the night a few miles from Sorel, Colonel Gore returned to Sorel the next morning. In the skirmish, 6 or some say 7 men were killed, and 9 or 10, including Capt. Markham, wounded. The loss on the other side is supposed to have been considerably greater. Exclusive of those killed and wounded by the skirmishers, the constant discharge of the howitzer into the large house, which was crowded with men, must have been very destructive.

Montreal Courier, 27th.

CAPTURE OF ST CHARLES.

From the Montreal Morning Courier.

Nov. 27, Half-past Seven. P. M.

We have the pleasure of laying before our readers the substance of the official report of the taking of St. Charles, on Saturday last.

On Saturday morning at nine o'clock, the Brigade under Lieut. Colonel Wetherall, left St. Hilaire in the direction of St. Charles. The march was accomplished without opposition or hindrance, except from the breaking down of bridges, &c. &c. until he arrived within a mile of St. Charles, when the troops were fired upon from the left or opposite bank of the Richelieu, and a man of the Royal Regiment was wounded. Several rifle shots were also fired from a barn immediately in their front, and the barn was immediately burnt. On arriving at two hundred and fifty yards from the rebel works, Col. Wetherall took up a position, hoping that a display of his force would induce some defection amongst the infatuated people; they, however, opened a heavy fire, which was returned. The gallant Colonel then advanced to another position, one hundred yards from the works, but finding the defenders obstinate, he stormed and carried them, burning every building within the stockade, except that of Mr. Debartzch, which, however, is much injured.

The affair occupied about one hour. The slaughter on the side of the rebels was very great. An individual who left St. Charles this morning says, that he saw upwards of 125 buried last night, and there remained many more; beside which a great many were killed in the buildings, and their bodies burnt. Their wounded are 300 and odd. The following is a return of the killed and wounded of Her Majesty's troops:—

KILLED:		
	Sergt.	R. & F.
The Royal Regt.	1	1
66th Regt.	0	1
	—	—
	1	2
	—	—
WOUNDED SEVERELY.		
	Sergt.	SLIGHTLY.
		R & F,
The Royal Regt.	8	7
66th Regt.	2	1
	—	—
	10	8
Men and officers behaved nobly. Major Ward carried		

the right of the position in good style, and Captain Glasgow of the Artillery did good execution, and proved himself a zealous officer. Captain David's troops of Montreal Cavalry rendered essential service.

In addition to the above particulars we may add, that the interment of the dead above mentioned was the work of the victorious troops. The leaders who had brought these misguided men into the snare in which they were thus taken, were not the men who performed the last rites of humanity for the remains of their unhappy victims.

About sixty prisoners we understand to have been taken; but few or none among them are of note. T. S. Brown is thought to have fled in the direction of St. Denis. Papienau and O'Callaghan, according to the best information obtained, were both safely lodged at St. Marc, on the other side of the river during the engagement, thus giving fresh evidence of their individual aversion to that 'villainous saltpetre', of which they think so favourably when others than themselves are to be its victims. Of the 152 stated to have been thus buried, the 'fifty-six' of which we spoke in our shorter extra, as having been counted by Col. W. were a part and were all counted by him, as we understand, in one place.

The occupation of the village of St. Charles was as has been already stated, complete. Its defenders were all placed *hors du combat*; those not killed or taken, seeking refuge by flight. On Sunday, Col. W. fell back leisurely on Rouville. The reports relative to St. Denis and St. Ours, which have been current during the day, are therefore unfounded. '*Festina lente*' seems to be the gallant Colonel's motto; and a very good one it is. By not hurrying from Rouville in the first instance, he has succeeded in gaining the signal advantage we have thus described. A like course will doubtless continue to lead to like results.

The spirit with which the defenders of the village fired upon the troops in the first instance, may be gathered from the fact that Col. Wetherall, Major Ward, and Captain David's horses were all wounded, and we believe disabled. The compliments paid to the gallantry of the several bodies under the Colonel's orders, are doubtless well deserved. We understand the gallant officer has expressed his wish, in regard to the Cavalry in particular, that he had not a great many more of them under him.

We have authority to state that all eligible persons wishing to volunteer for six months' military service, will receive 1s. per day, and rations—application to be made to the Commanding Officers of the Volunteer Corps. All men who want work also by applying to the same officers, will be employed in forming barriers—upon being approved of by the Engineer officer.

CANADA.

Latest Intelligence by the Industry.

Dec. 2.—All accounts agree that the rebels are mustering their forces in considerable numbers north of this city, and are building fortifications, and making other demonstrations of an intended engagement with the Queen's troops. The Post Master at Vaudreuil is reported to have joined the rebel camp, and the mail bag to Byton had to be sent back to this city, as it was not deemed safe to carry it further than St. Eustache.

About fifty families of loyalists have been under the necessity of seeking security for their lives in timely flight, and arrived here on Thursday and yesterday. The number of rebels is related to be much greater than at St. Charles, many of whom have, in all probability, joined their friends in the North.—*Montreal Herald.*

The Albany Argus gives the following additional intelligence from Canada:—

Departure of the Royalist Troops from Montreal for Sorel—supposed movement upon St. Denis.

The Northern mail brings via Burlington, Montreal dates of the 2d inst. and Quebec of the 29th ult.

The Montreal Transcript furnishes us the following extracts:

The strong hold of the rebels at St. Charles, has been destroyed, and the band that garrisoned it scattered. But although we have scotched the monster rebellion, the spirit of revolt is not dead. The activity of the instigators is remarkable, and it is but justice to admit the personal bravery displayed by their deluded followers. How lamentable! that a people so largely endowed with these two essential qualities should apply themselves to the destruction, rather than the advancement of their native country.

A detachment of troops left Montreal for Sorel, by steambot, on Thursday afternoon. These we may presume would move upon St. Denis in the course of yesterday; so that news from that quarter may be expected.

Strong bands of armed rebels are collected round about L'Acadie, ready to unite at some given point, whenever their plan of operations is complete.

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

We understand that depositions were yesterday made in this city, that agents of the insurgents in Canada, were openly recruiting in Burlington and other places in Vermont, and sending into Canada, men and munitions of war, for the use of those in arms against the government. These depositions were forwarded to England by yester-