

COLONIAL.

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 breking 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, Colonel Wetherall took up a position, hoping that a display of his force would induce some defection amongst the infuriated 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 Debarzsch, 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 were many more; besides 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:		R. & F.
Sergt.	1	1
The Royal Regt.	0	1
66th Regt.	1	2
WOUNDED SEVERELY.		SLIGHTLY.
Sergt.	8	7
The Royal Regt.	2	1
66th Regt.	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 troop 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. B. Brown is thought to have fled in the direction of St. Denis. Papineau and O'Callaghan, according to the best information obtained, were both safely lodged at St. Marc, on the other side 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 are to be its victims.—Of 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 in flight. On Sunday, Col. W. fell back leisurely upon 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 just 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 Capt. David's horses were all wounded, and we believe disabled. The complaints 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 Office.

A report was current in town last night, growing we presume, out of the preparations known to have been making all the week previous, for further disturbances in the County of Two Mountains, and the statement that a grand muster of the malcontents was to be held early in the day in that quarter, that an attack upon the city was to be expected during the night. Strong guards of the several volunteer battalions were posted accordingly at an early hour, on every avenue leading to the city. The rumour proved, as was indeed expected by almost every body, to be groundless; but the spirit with which the Volunteers came forward in all quarters to the discharge of their duties, was in the highest degree satisfactory, and give good evidence of the probable efficiency of their several corps, should their services ever be more seriously required hereafter.

The four Volunteer Battalions muster considerably above 2000 men. All are now armed and officered, and a large proportion of the Companies have gone through some little drilling. By the time the river closes, they will make a very pretty garrison.

From the Portland Advertiser, Dec. 5.

We have to-day contradictory accounts from Canada. Those from the Montreal Courier of the 27th report the Loyalists as victorious at St. Charles, where, it will be recollected, the last account anticipated a great battle. Another account which appears to bring intelligence from Montreal down to a late hour, we got from an Extra issued at St. Albans under date of the 25th, which says:

"Passengers in the Stage who left Montreal last evening, and arrived at Highgate this evening, report that the Patriots are gaining at St. Charles."

"Frequent skirmishes have taken place, the result generally favourable to the Patriots."

Yesterday and to-day firing was heard in the direction of St. Charles.

They contradict the rumour so current for the last 24 hours, that the Royalists had taken

St. Charles, routed the Patriots, killed 300, and taken General Brown prisoner.

The greatest excitement prevails in the community. Amidst the multitude of rumours it is almost impossible to ascertain the exact truth. A day or two will furnish something decisive.

Later Still—10 o'clock, P. M.—We learn from a source we credit, that on Saturday at 11 P. M. the British attacked the Patriots—there was hard fighting until 5 A. M.—for a while the Patriots were put to confusion.

A reinforcement of 1800 Patriots came up, attacked the British in the rear, and routed them. The Royalists had retreated to a wood, and constant accessions of the Canadian troops were pouring in when the messenger left.

The Royalists had burned down the village of St. Charles.

We look hourly for further intelligence.—The result is doubtful.

Great fears are entertained at Montreal, of an invasion from Terrybone, where a large patriot force was collected. Almost all the regulars were at St. Charles.

The Volunteers were barricading the streets of the City.

From the Novascotia.

By the Western Mail, Boston papers to the 4th Dec. were received. They give entirely different views of the position and performances of the belligerent parties. We give below these accounts as we find them—leaving our readers to draw their own conclusions.

From the Commercial Boston Gazette.

We are indebted to an Extra from the Burlington Free Press, for the following account of a bloody battle, and decisive Victory of the Patriots, over the Queen's army of Regulars and Volunteers. On our first page will be found copious details of the movements of the British army, under Col. Wetherall, from Montreal, against St. Charles. It is the Royalist account, and states that the Queen's troops were completely successful. Many persons have supposed that the account from the Burlington Free Press is but the Patriot version of the same battle, where the victory had been claimed by the British. They thus consider the two accounts inconsistent with each other, and doubt the success of the Patriots. A close attention to dates and places show that the accounts are perfectly consistent, and that they relate to two battles. This will appear by reading the British account of Col. Wetherall's expedition, and afterwards the account below.

The Montreal account says that Wetherall attacked the town of St. Charles at 2 o'clock, p. m., and took it, with the loss of 100 killed and 200 prisoners on the part of the Patriots, but states that their informant left the camp on Saturday afternoon: that down to Monday no further accounts were received from Wetherall, although he was only 36 miles from Montreal. On the other hand, the account below relates to an attack of the British on the Fort at St. Charles, at eleven o'clock on Saturday night, which resulted in the total defeat of the British.

The latter is therefore perfectly consistent with the former, and the fact that no express from Wetherall had been received at Montreal down to Monday morning, corroborates the idea of his defeat. This conclusion is also consistent with the account from St. Albans Journal, that the Patriots were "gaining" at St. Charles. The following, from the Burlington Free Press, is the latest intelligence:—

At eleven o'clock, the regular and volunteer British forces, 1200 strong, made an unexpected assault upon the Fort at St. Charles, about 36 miles from Montreal. The assault was urged and resisted with the greatest obstinacy