

This officer has not yet been one year in Canada, yet so admirable is the system of organization which he has established, that he is able within a few hours to assemble on any given point over a line of more than 1,000 miles, masses of Volunteers, who at the time the order was given were scattered over the country pursuing their ordinary avocations.

While I attribute full credit to the excellent spirit of the people for its share in this effect, I think the administrative ability which has given practical operation to the good feeling of the population ought to have its meed of praise, and in the interests of the public service on some possible future emergency ought not to be left without official record.

There are prisoners in our hands to the number of about 150. I have not yet received official returns of them, whose trial will be proceeded with at an early day.

I confidently expect within a few days to be able to dismiss to their homes the great majority of the Volunteers, and my firm conviction is, that this disturbance will produce beneficial effects by discrediting Fenian enterprises, exhibiting the futility of any attempt at invasion of the Province, and showing the absence of all disaffection amongst any portion of the people of Canada.

The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MONCK.

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Lieutenant-General Sir J. MICHEL to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

MY LORD,

Head-Quarters, Montreal, June 8, 1866.

I HAVE the honour to forward Reports, as per margin,* referring to operations from the 1st to the 4th of June, on the Niagara frontier.

It appears by those Reports that Colonel Peacocke, of the 16th Regiment, with a force, as per margin,† arrived at Chippawa on the evening of the 1st of June, and that hearing a Fenian force was encamped at Black Creek, he endeavoured to arrange for the morning of the 2nd a combined movement with the Volunteer force, as per margin,‡ under Colonel Booker, at Port Colborne. During the night, however, the Fenians removed to Ridgeway, and circumstances did not permit Colonel Peacocke to move so early as the hour proposed. I may here incidentally state that some discrepancies exist between the reports of Colonels Peacocke and Booker as to the time named for junction, it will be seen by the slight sketch subjoined that the Fenians had moved during the night, three miles nearer Port Colborne, and three miles further from Colonel Peacocke's force.

The consequence of this was that the Volunteers came on the enemy unexpectedly; and although they attacked him with much gallantry, and suffered severely, as may be seen by the subjoined list of killed and wounded, were, from want of support, and from other causes connected with their state (as new to warfare), worsted by the enemy and forced to retire to Port Colborne, but without much molestation.

The enemy then turned their attention to a small party of Volunteers under Colonel Dennis, who had seized Fort Erie, to which place they had, in a steam-tug, on the morning of the 2nd proceeded.

Colonel Dennis' party, I believe, took some forty prisoners, but the report from that officer has not yet reached me.

Colonel Peacocke's column having been reinforced by Lieutenant-Colonel Villier's 47th Regiment with a force as per margin,§ arrived on the evening of the 2nd within two miles and a half of Fort Erie, and on the morning of the 3rd proceeded to that place.

The great body, however, of the enemy on the night of the 2nd had recrossed the river. They were immediately seized by the United States' authorities, and placed in arrest.

Colonel Peacocke in his march picked up a considerable number of prisoners,

Although the result of these operations, in a military point of view, were not so satisfactory to me as I could have wished, still I feel that from the total want of cavalry the change of the position of the enemy during the night of the 1st could not have been

* Colonel Peacocke's, June 4; Lieutenant-Colonel Booker's; List of Killed and Wounded.

† 400 Regulars, 6 guns.

‡ 840 Volunteers.

§ 150 Regulars, 750 Volunteers; total, 900 Infantry.