

No. 1.
Sir F. B. Head to
Lord Glenelg,
19 Dec. 1837.

other. I considered it better, however, under all circumstances, to await the outbreak, which I was confident would be impotent inversely as it was previously opposed; in short, I considered that if an attack by the rebels was inevitable, the more I encouraged them to consider me defenceless the better.

Mr. M'Kenzie, under these favourable circumstances, having been freely permitted by me to make every preparation in his power, a concentration of his deluded adherents, and an attack upon the city of Toronto were secretly settled to take place on the night of the 19th instant; however, in consequence of a militia general order which I issued, it was deemed advisable that these arrangements should be hurried, and accordingly Mr. M'Kenzie's deluded victims, travelling through the forest by cross roads, found themselves assembled, at about four o'clock in the evening of Monday, the 4th instant, as rebels, at Montgomerie's Tavern, which is on the Yonge-street macadamized road, about four miles from the city.

As soon as they had attained this position, Mr. M'Kenzie and a few others, with pistols in their hands, arrested every person on the road, in order to prevent information reaching the town. Colonel Moodie, a distinguished veteran officer, residing in Yonge-street, accompanied by three gentlemen on horseback, on passing Montgomerie's Tavern was fired at by the rebels, and I deeply regret to say that the colonel, wounded in two places, was taken prisoner into the tavern, where in three hours he died, leaving a widow and family unprovided for.

As soon as this gallant meritorious officer, who had honourably fought in this province, fell, I am informed that Mr. M'Kenzie exultingly observed to his followers, "*that as blood had now been spilled, they were in for it, and had nothing left but to advance;*" accordingly, at about 10 o'clock at night, they did advance; and I was in bed, and asleep, when Mr. Alderman Powell awakened me to state, that in riding out of the city towards Montgomerie's Tavern he had been arrested by Mr. M'Kenzie and another principal leader; that the former had snapped a pistol at his breast; that his (Mr. Powell's) pistol also snapped, but that he fired a second, which, causing the death of Mr. M'Kenzie's companion, had enabled him to escape.

As soon as Mr. Powell reached Toronto, the alarm bell was rung, and as Mr. M'Kenzie feared we might be prepared for him, he forbore to proceed with his attack.

On arriving at the City Hall, I appointed Mr. Justice Jones, Mr. Henry Sherwood, Captain Strachan and Mr. John Robinson, my aide-de-camp. I then ordered the arms to be unpacked, and, manning all the windows of the building, as well as those of opposite houses which flanked it, we awaited the rebels, who, as I have stated, did not deem it advisable to advance. Besides these arrangements, I despatched a messenger to the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Colonel the honourable Allan M'Nab, of the Gore district, and to the colonels of the militia regiments in the Midland and Newcastle districts. An advanced piquet of 30 volunteers, commanded by my aide-de-camp, Mr. Justice Jones, was placed within a short distance of the rebels.

By the following morning (Tuesday) we mustered about 300 men, and in the course of the day the numbers increased to about 500. In the night an advanced piquet, commanded by Mr. Sheriff Jarvis, was attacked within the precincts of the city by the rebels, who were driven back, one of their party being killed and several wounded.

On Wednesday morning we were sufficiently strong to have ventured on an attack, but being sensible of the strength of our position, being also aware how much depended upon the contest in which we were about to be engaged, and feeling the greatest possible reluctance at the idea of entering upon a civil war, I despatched two gentlemen to the rebel leaders, to tell them that before any conflict should take place, I parentally called upon them, as their governor, to avoid the effusion of human blood. In the meanwhile, however, Mr. M'Kenzie had committed every description of enormity; he had robbed the mail—with his own hands had set fire to Dr. Horne's house—had plundered many inoffensive individuals of their money—had stolen several horses, had made a number of respectable people prisoners, and, having thus succeeded in embarking his misguided adherents in guilt, he replied to my admonition by a message, that he would only consent that his demands should be settled by a national convention, and he insolently added, that he would wait till two o'clock for my answer, which in one word was "NEVER!"

In