

"The Fenian lieutenant above alluded to, assured me of the determination of the invaders to stand their ground and fight it out on the line of Black Creek. They evidently anticipated other significant movements to be made by the Brotherhood in different portions of the Province, and look for a diversion in their favour by this means.

"I left Fort Erie at half-past four this afternoon."

Meanwhile energetic and vigorous preparations to repulse the Raiders, were making in Toronto and elsewhere. Great excitement had arisen in all the cities in Canada West, and every Volunteer was prepared to do his duty manfully and earnestly. At the close of a Concert in the Music Hall on the evening of Thursday, 31st May, an officer of No. 5 Company "Queen's Own," advanced to the front of the platform and announced to all members of the "Queen's Own" present, that they were to assemble in the Drill Shed at 6 o'clock next morning, for Active Service. Loud cheers followed this announcement, the band struck up, and the whole audience joined in an enthusiastic singing of "God Save the Queen."

IN TORONTO.

Early on Friday morning, General Napier, the Imperial officer in command of Western Canada, was informed of what was occurring at Fort Erie, and preparations were at once made for driving the raiders from Canadian soil.

In the forenoon a proclamation was issued by His Excellency the Governor-General, calling out the whole Volunteer force of the Province for active service, placing them under the Imperial military authorities. Orders were promptly issued by Lieut. Col. Durie to all the companies of the 4th, 5th, 7th and 16th military districts to assemble forthwith for permanent service.

The Great Western Railway Company was notified that their line must be placed exclusively at the service of the military authorities. The proprietors of the *City of Toronto* and *Passport* steamers were requested to reserve these boats for military purposes, and at once heartily complied.

Colonel Peacocke, the able and vigilant commanding officer of the 16th Regiment, was placed in command of the whole force on the Niagara frontier, and instructed to proceed at once to his post.

At seven in the morning, 400 men of the Queen's Own Volunteers of Toronto, under Major Gilmor, left for Port Dalhousie on the *City of Toronto*; and, on landing, at once took the Welland Railway for Port Colborne, to join the force of Lieut. Col. Dennis at that point.

Early in the day, a full battery of Royal Horse Artillery left by the Great Western railway for St. Catharines, under Lieut. Col. Hoste.

Her Majesty's 47th Regiment of Infantry also left Toronto by the Great Western, under command of Lieut. Colonel Villiers.

The 10th Royal Volunteers of Toronto, Major Boxall, were also despatched by the Great Western in the afternoon.

Colonel Peacocke and a large detachment of the 16th Regulars went on from Hamilton to St. Catharines.

The 13th Battalion, Hamilton Volunteers, 300 strong, under Lieut. Col. Booker, left Hamilton at mid-day for the frontier.

The Thorold Volunteers and Welland Artillery Battery were ordered to report to Lieut. Col. Dennis at Port Colborne forthwith.