

expedition against St. Dennis had failed, with a loss of a field-piece, and several killed and wounded. Colonel Wetherall, with the aptitude and foresight of a veteran officer, most gallantly determined, notwithstanding the report of Colonel Gore's defeat, to unite with his force the grenadier company of the Royals, then at Chambly, and march, upon his own responsibility, against St. Charles. To effect this union was no easy matter; for a considerable force of armed peasantry was collected between us and Chambly. As in such enterprises British soldiers delight, volunteers were not wanting to bear the necessary despatch; a selection from the cavalry was, however, made, as being men well acquainted with the country. The attention of the rebels was so riveted to the camp movements, that Major Warde, with his company, by embarking on board bateaux, and floating down the Richlieu, — a movement the rebels did not look for, — joined the main body unmolested.

At ten A.M. of the 25th, Colonel Wetherall commenced his march against St. Charles. All the bridges across the small streams which contribute to the Richlieu, were destroyed; rendering it necessary to form temporary fords, by throwing into them piles of rails from the neighbouring fences.

The last bridge, near St. Charles, was not only destroyed, but the pass fortified. Along a deep gully, at the base of a steep hill, a small stream takes its course; and crowning the height, where the road passes, a log breastwork was raised, which extended some yards on each side of the thoroughfare. Had the military attempted to pass by night, it was the intention of the insurgents to have made this spot a scene of active defence. To an able officer, and man of courage, what a field of operations here presented itself! (See the sketch.) The rebel leader at St. Charles, T. S. Brown, however, was not that man. In order that the troops might be harassed as little as possible, Colonel Wetherall, in his further progress to the fortified village, avoided the road by making a *détour* through the fields to the right.

About a quarter of a mile from St. Charles, the light company of the Royals, whilst skirmishing, and in advance of the main body, received a sharp fire from some houses and barns, which were loop-holed and occupied: these were the outposts of the rebels, who, on delivering their fire, retreated on their position. The houses from which we received the volley were immediately fired, and one prisoner taken, who, on our opening the view of St. Charles, was sent to the town to demand a surrender. The summons was answered by a deafening cheer of contempt, — the voice of hundreds.

There being no alternative now left but to attack the place, Colonel Wetherall deployed on his rear division as the brigade marched in close column, the light