

the little garrison had a strong *point d'appui* in Debartzsch's house and barn. The men, numbering seven hundred, were commanded by Mr. T. S. Brown. Colonel Wetherall, who had been despatched from Chambly with a battalion, appeared before this fort, November 25th, 1837, and prepared at once to assault it. The key of the position was the wooded hillock just mentioned. If Brown had defended that with sharpshooters and artillery, he would have made a strong resistance, but when the first shot from Wetherall's ordnance shrieked through the air and struck the belfry of St. Charles, church, he is said to have lost control over his men. Wetherall, took possession of the eminence, got his two guns into full play upon the insurgents and created havoc among them. His fire however, was returned with spirit for a whole hour. At length the regulars received orders to point bayonets and they carried the works at one charge. The camp was destroyed and so was Debartzsch's barn, but his house was spared. That old seignorial mansion still stands. It was there also that a preliminary meeting took place between Papineau, Nelson, Viger and others, at which the details of a provisional government were agreed upon, in case of the success of the military uprising which was then contemplated.

St. Denis is five miles below St. Charles. In 1837, it served as the head quarters of the insurgents, owing principally to the fact that it was the residence of Dr. Wolfred Nelson, their principal leader and, by all odds, the most remarkable man in the whole movement. On November 23, 1837, Colonel Gore, coming up from Sorrel, with a column of three hundred regulars, a few cavalry and a field piece, attacked a large stone house on the river bank where the insurgents were barricaded. This house, known as that of Madame St. Germain, is still standing, a monument of the battle. After a sharp engagement, the insurgents abandoned that position and boldly met the regulars in the field. A brisk conflict then ensued in which Gore was so