

Major Gillmor reported the centre companies of his battalion short of ammunition, and Lieutenant Colonel Booker ordered the 13th Battalion, Major Skinner, to move up and relieve the skirmishers on the right of the road. The 13th Battalion having only six companies, were only able to relieve that number, leaving the Highland Company and the University Rifles still out on the extreme right, and the Trinity College Company and No. 7 supporting them on the extreme left. For some reason, the company of the 13th, which was to have relieved No. 6 (Captain Adam), only moved up to the brick house, in front of which No. 6, after driving out the enemy with great gallantry, had established itself; and both companies remained in that position, fighting bravely; the left subdivision of No. 6, with Lieutenant Campbell and Ensign McLean, pushing across the road as far as a barn on the left side of the ridge road. No. 7 company was re-called from the left, and then soon after sent out on the right, in support, under Captain McPherson; and the York Rifles, Captain Davis, took their place on the left, in support of the Trinity College Corps.

The whole of the skirmishers pressed forward with the greatest gallantry, driving the enemy's skirmishers in on the first line and dislodging it from the strong position they had taken up behind the rail barricade. The whole of the Fenians were now concentrated on their main body, in the position already described, beyond the orchard, and our troops had moved on and taken up a position behind the rail barricade. No. 6 Company of the Queen's Own and a company of the 13th holding the cross roads, the brick house, and stretching across the road to the barn on the left front; two companies of the 13th were on the right of the house, along the barricade; the Highlanders, who had cleared the woods, were in a wheat field in advance of them, to the right of the 13th, and the University Rifles between the right of the 13th and the Highland Company, in a wood in advance of the cross road; and the Trinity College Company on the extreme left. The remaining companies of the Queen's Own were in reserve, in a close column, on the ridge road, about 400 yards in rear of the skirmishers. The other three companies of the 13th were in support of their skirmishers, except a small party with the colors in rear of the Queen's Own.

Our troops had been in this position for some time, when it seems that the Fenian leaders decided to charge again, to drive our men back from the line they had carried. In order to encourage their men onward, the officers rode out to the front, and two or three of them, mounted, led their men to the attack. As I have before stated, the windings of the road, and the gentle undulations of the ground, and the orchards and shade trees prevent a clear view in any direction of more than about 100 or 200 yards. The skirmishers, seeing the mounted men coming towards them, thought a body of cavalry were going to charge; and, raising a cry that cavalry were coming, began to run back, calling out to the reserves to look out for cavalry. The reserves were on the road, and these mounted men were also seen upon it. Lieutenant Colonel Booker, from his position in front of the reserves, could not possibly see for himself whether the report was true or false; but, on hearing it reiterated, he called out to Major Gillmor to "Look out for cavalry!" Major Gillmor thereupon ordered his battalion to form square. This was done; the bugler sounded the "prepare for cavalry," and the companies on the flanks ran in—some forming in rear of the squares, others forming rally

ing squares in the fields, and afterwards falling back on the main body. These companies, coming in on the double, and being obliged to climb over the fences to get into the road where the square was situated, tumbling in on both sides in the confusion caused by the fences, endeavored hastily to form in rear of the square. The front and side faces of the square were formed with the coolness of a parade movement, but by no possibility could the rear face be properly formed in the short time in which there was to do it. At this moment, while the men were endeavoring to form up, the Fenians came in range of the square; the bullets whistled fast and furiously among them, and the men were dropping wounded and dead on all sides. Seeing, by this time that no cavalry were coming, Major Gillmor endeavored to extend his regiment. He ordered No. 1 company (Captain Brown), and No. 2 (Captain Nixon) to advance and extend, in order to enable their square, under cover of their fire, to regain its formation. These companies advanced nobly, and endeavored to extend, but the rear portion of the square, which had never been able to form, feeling the fire of the enemy, began gradually to dissolve, falling back to the rear. At the same time advanced skirmishers, running in along the road—being unable to go round the flanks for the fences—broke through the 1st and 2nd companies, who were advancing, and forced their way through the square. Seeing the impossibility of reforming under so heavy a fire, the order was given to retire; and the two regiments, retiring along the same road, became mingled together; some few running hurriedly to the rear, others retiring more slowly, while a large body of red coats and green, fighting gallantly, slowly and sullenly retired, covering the retreat and holding the Fenians at bay. With this rear guard were most of the officers, who, throughout the entire day, fought nobly—encouraging their men and exposing themselves recklessly to the enemy's fire. Lieutenant Campbell, No. 6, and Ensign Fahey, No. 1, Queen's Own, and Lieutenant Routh of the 13th, receiving serious wounds.

The Highland Company and the University Rifles being, as we have seen, so far advanced on the right, did not know of the squares being formed, until they heard the retreat sounded. The whole force were falling back at this time, and the two companies had to cross, diagonally, the full fire of the enemy, in order to reach the road. Had the Fenians advanced promptly, they would, in all probability, have cut off the retreat of both. A portion of the Highland Company retreated across the fields, along with the University Rifles, while the remainder fell back through the woods, and rejoined the main column by the Garrison Road. It was through this retreat across the front of the Fenians, that the University Rifles suffered so much loss.

After retreating some distance, Col. Booker endeavored to rally his command at the edge of a wood, which came up to the road. In this he was ably seconded by many of the officers, all of whom behaved well. Major Gillmor, Major Skinner, and Capt. Hennyery (13th), and Captains Brown, Dixon, Whitney, Adam, Gardner, and Sherwood; Adjutant Otter, and Lieut. Arthurs, of the "Queen's Own," and Captain Davis, of the York Rifles, did their utmost, assisted by their officers, to restore order. Captain Sherwood succeeded in forming part of his company at Ridgeway, so, also, to a greater extent, did Capt. Adam; and there, also, one or two companies of the 13th were rallied by their officers, but, not being properly supported, they were obliged

to resume the retreat, which was continued to Port Colborne.

Before leaving this subject, it will be desirable to consider the circumstances which led to the retreat of the volunteer force, on this occasion. Lieut.-Col. Booker, being without a mounted staff, was acting at a great disadvantage, which, of course, must have had an ill effect on the whole of the movements. The broken nature of the ground, and the impossibility of thoroughly understanding the enemy's position, was another great difficulty.

The substantial cause of the retreat, however, was, without doubt, the fact of the reserves being in close column, and in square, so close to the skirmishers as to be under fire.

The Fenians only followed them as far as Ridgeway and about a quarter of a mile beyond it.

There was no doubt that the men and officers behaved well; they fought with the greatest gallantry, and had it not been for the unfortunate cry of "Cavalry!" and the mistakes I have mentioned, would have won a brilliant victory. Where all did so well, we cannot make invidious distinctions. Reflections have been made, in some of the public prints, on the conduct of the 13th Battalion. After thoroughly enquiring into the whole matter, I am strongly of opinion that there was no difference between them. Both fought nobly. They were mingled in the retreat, some in front, some in the centre, and some behind, fighting bravely, covering the remainder. In all these different positions, each battalion was represented.

WAR INTELLIGENCE.

Latest accounts estimate the French loss at Woerth at 5000 (one account says 10,000) men placed *hors de combat*, amongst whom were many officers. 6000 prisoners were also taken. The Prussian loss is stated to be between 3000 and 4000 killed and wounded.

General Changarnier has arrived at Metz, and has been favourably received by the Emperor. The chief command of the French army has been transferred to Marshal Bazaine. Several French journalists fought at Saarbruck. Two correspondents have been wounded and several are amissing.

A combat is reported between the French iron-clad corvette *Thetis* and a Prussian monitor which lasted only a few minutes, the latter vessel being sunk—details are not given.

BLOODY VICTORY BY THE PRUSSIAN AT WISSEMBOURG.

On Thursday a victory, characterised by the Prussian despatches as brilliant but bloody, was gained by the army of the Crown Prince. The occasion was the storming of Wissembourg, and of Geis Hill, in the rear of that town. The troops engaged on the German side were regiments of the fifth and eleventh Prussian army corps, and second corps of Bavaria; and on the French side, the division of General Douay belonging to the corps of Marshal MacMahon. The French were repulsed and dispersed, leaving behind their encampment. General Douay was killed, and over 500 were wounded and made prisoners, including many Turcos, who fell into the hands of the Prussians. One piece of artillery was also captured on the German side. General Kirchback was grazed by a shot. The King's Grenadier Guards and the 50th Regiment suffered severely.

According to official reports received at Munich the number of prisoners captured in