

(d.) By engaging the assailants so near the defile, that they have only one line of retreat which lies close to their rear. This will oblige them to adopt a deep formation, when the defenders can generally overpower them if they advance to the attack, inasmuch as they have not the disadvantage of a defile in their rear. The defenders must seek to profit by any of these advantages, and the result will be judged chiefly from the extent in which they have done so.

(To be continued.)

### CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

#### FROM MONTREAL.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The conquest of Canada and the liberation of Ireland from the British yoke is indefinitely postponed; the elaborate and extensive preparations made by the Fenians across the borders for that purpose, having through the loyalty and bravery of our gallant Volunteers, ended in a complete and contemptible failure; the generals, colonels, &c., who commanded the rascals having proved themselves arrant cowards, and the rank and file a mere mass of common humanity, who, at the prospect of anything of a fight, fled ignominiously. A very grave responsibility must lay with the American government who openly allowed these rascals to assemble, arm and march to the frontier, and only interfered at the eleventh hour. No other country in the world would permit what the American government has done—permitted these Fenians to enlist on American soil men and officers, to hold congresses and appoint Presidents &c., to raise subscriptions, purchase arms, &c., all without any disguise but with openly avowed intentions of making war on a country with which they are at peace. The British Government will certainly demand some more tangible guarantee than that the American government will prevent any violation of our soil, as the last Fenian raid has shown how far these promises are kept. It must be made illegal for men to meet for drill for any other purpose that may have for its object the making war upon a friendly power; furthermore, as a guarantee that the American government are acting and will act in good faith, they should hand over to us for the hangman the Fenians who invaded our soil, General O'Neil included.

What a miserable excuse for the American government to say they could not prevent Fenians crossing the frontier because no United States troops were on hand. The American authorities knew perfectly well what was going on, and were better posted up in their movements than we; surely if Canada could muster such a force on her borders in the short time she did the American government could have transported

troops to their frontier also, yet it was days before a single United States soldier was on hand. and then, so far as we know, but one or two Fenians have been arrested including their notorious leader, the cowardly despicable O'Neil, who allowed himself to be arrested sooner than risk his cowardly carcass on Canadian soil.

The Volunteers concentrated in St. Johns consisted in round numbers of about 1000 men and officers, comprising the Hochelagas, Royals, Victorias, Prince of Wales' Rifles, 21st Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Marchand; St. Johns Garrison Artillery, Major Drumm. The Rifle Brigade, numbering about 500 men, returned last week to Montreal. On Friday, at St. Johns, Col. Lord Alexander Russell inspected the Volunteers on the commons. H.R.H. Prince Arthur acted as aid-de-camp, and considering the manner in which he galloped here and there, giving and receiving orders, his appointment was no sinecure. Col. Lord A. Russell expressed himself satisfied with the several movements executed but could not help expressing his disappointment of the Royals, who were one hour late on the ground. I don't know what explanation Col. Grant gave but I believe it was considered satisfactory. On the departure of the Rifle Brigade the command devolved on Lt.-Col. Marchand of the 21st Battalion, a gentleman who is deservedly liked and respected. The men generally fared well, in the matter of sleeping accommodation the Victoria Rifles have the hardest beds their quarters being what was once the United States Hotel, an untenanted wooden building. The gallant Vics slept on the hard floor with nothing but their blankets to lie on. They are a fine body of men and no other Volunteer corps in the Dominion would have stood what they did; they made the best of their misfortune and always seemed to be jolly and in the best of spirits, perfect Mark Tapleys. Their gallant Major Bethune received the compliment of a serenade by them and as they possess several very fine singers it was a perfect treat to all who listened to them. The Vics adapted themselves to circumstances with the best possible humour and those who were detailed as regimental cooks and waiters performed their duties creditably.

I strolled several times into their mess room and stripped to the shirt were several "bloods" of Montreal cheerfully laying out or clearing the table, wiping knives and forks, laying out plates, &c. A wheelbarrow propelled by one of our heaviest swells when in town, and several buckets and pails carried by several young gentlemen who could hardly dispense with kid gloves while in the city, formed a ludicrous procession through the streets; they landed their contributions at the culinary department at the mess room then at the disposal of the jolly waiters afore mentioned. The Vics contributed much to the amusement of the good folks of St. Johns. The day before leaving

they got up a ludicrous procession; two of them personating Fenians, being dressed in the captured uniforms, were chained to a kind of rudo box with handles before and behind, and which was carried by two men one in front and one behind. A Vic in front with a Fenian musket and bayonet fixed and others bringing up the rear completed this motley procession. I must not, however, forget sundry brushes, brooms, &c., carried in the procession and a green flag on which was written in large letters "Pigeon Hill." Considerable amusement was caused on its passing the quarters of the 21st Battalion to see the guard turn out, being impressed that the whole was a reality and that they were genuine Fenians en route to rail, they soon, however, saw the sell and skulked in looking very silly.

The Hochelagas, with which was incorporated the St. Jean Baptiste Company, Capt. Simpson, was under the command of Major Martin, a gentleman whose long experience in matters pertaining to Volunteering makes him an invaluable commander. He handles his men with perfect ease, and is one of the most efficient officers of the force. Captains Geddes, Sinton, Gardener and Simpson managed their several companies very well and the whole corps behaved, during their stay in St. Johns, like gentlemen, not a man being guilty of any offence.

The 1st Prince of Wales' Rifles were under command of Major Bond, an officer who has by his individual exertions made the Prince of Wales' Rifles what they are to day, an excellent drilled corps and well filled in numbers.

The 5th Royals were under the command of Lt.-Col. Grant. They turned out four good companies, well officered and dressed. The officers commanding this corps, I noticed, seemed to have numerous lady acquaintances, and I believe the corps generally is a favorite with these dear creatures.

The Mayor of St. Johns, J. H. Brisette, Esq., a gentleman of whom St. Johns may well be proud, was untiring in his efforts to promote the comfort of the troops. He had some ten Volunteer officers in his house by invitation, and as your correspondent was one, he can vouch for his great kindness, giving as he did all his best rooms for their use, and feeding them like princes. His hospitality was unbounded, and he was never satisfied unless he was doing something or another for the Volunteers. Numerous courtesies and kindnesses were received from the very agreeable ladies of his household, and the Volunteers had many delicacies provided them from the cellars of this worthy gentleman. On leaving for Montreal the Mayor of St. Johns was presented with two addresses, one from the officers who were his guests, and another from the whole force testifying to the many favors received at his hands. I must not forget to mention the courtesy of the American Consul there, who placed his whole