

COPY

OF

The MILITIA GENERAL ORDER touching the COURT of INQUIRY held upon COLONEL PRINCE.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER.

Adjutant General's Office, Toronto,
20th March 1839.

THE Lieutenant Governor and Major General commanding has noticed with the deepest Anxiety the under-mentioned Statements of Events attending the late Invasion of Brigands into the Western District of this Province :

1st. A Despatch to Colonel Airey commanding the Western District from Colonel Prince in command at Sandwich, in which that Officer reports the following Circumstance :—

“ Of the Brigands and Pirates Twenty-one were killed, besides Four who were brought in just at the Close, and immediately after the Engagement, all of whom I ordered to be shot on the Spot, and which was done accordingly.”

2d. An Address, signed by Colonel William Elliott and Twelve other Persons, pledging themselves, individually and collectively, for the Truth of a printed Paper accompanying their Address, purporting to be a “ Narrative of the Action with the Brigands on the 4th of December,” compiled for the Purpose of Publication, and actually printed in the City of Detroit in the State of Michigan.

The Lieutenant Governor, on receiving the first of these Papers, immediately directed, in addition to personal Inquiry on the Spot, that a particular Statement of the Circumstances attending the Execution of the Four Prisoners by Colonel Prince should be laid before him; and on the Receipt of the Address before alluded to the Necessity for a minute and careful Inquiry into the Allegations contained in the printed Statement became distinctly apparent.

Under the Direction of his Excellency a Court of Inquiry was accordingly instituted, composed of Lieutenant Colonel Airey, commanding Her Majesty's 34th Regiment, President, Major French of the 85th, and Major Deedes of the 34th Regiment, Members; and those Officers, after a most laborious and rigid Inquiry, have submitted the following Report :—

“ The Court, having gone into the most minute and detailed Investigation of the Particulars contained in the printed Paper headed “ Battle of Windsor,” in so far as relates to Statements of a very painful Nature respecting the Treatment, by Order of Colonel Prince, of certain Brigand Prisoners who were captured at Windsor, Upper Canada, on the 4th December last, and having carefully and patiently examined, individually, the several Gentlemen who signed the Address to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor transmitting the said Document, in which it is stated, that ‘ as the several Particulars (which joined together form the connected Statement) are known to some one or more of the Subscribers, they pledge themselves individually for the Truth of the Parts to which they were respectively Eye-witnesses, and collectively to the Accuracy of the whole Narrative in all its essential Points,’ is of opinion, that the invidious Colouring which characterizes the Detail of the Facts alluded to, reflecting so painfully on the Conduct of Colonel Prince, is not in any way substantiated by Evi-