

ferry and camped close to the river road, on one Newbigging's farm. Their number was variously estimated at from 450 to 1,200 men. This testimony was corroborated by the statement of the mounted scouts from Buck's Tavern, and Stevensville, who returned in the evening, and went to show that with the exception of the parties out horse-stealing, there had been no Fenians seen in that direction, and was rendered certain by the arrival from Fort Erie of one who had been in their camp at six o'clock that evening. Shortly before this time, however, Lt.-Col. Booker, of Hamilton, had arrived with the 13th battalion of volunteers, and, being senior officer, took command, and continued the communication by telegraph which had been going on between Col. Peacocke and myself respecting the position and the strength of the enemy, and the best method of attacking him. Col. Peacocke, then at Clifton, having, about 5 p. m., telegraphed to me that he had ordered the *International* steamer up to Port Colborne, for me to put upon her a gun, or detachment, in order to patrol the river from Fort Erie to Chippewa. She not having arrived at 10.30 p. m., I ordered the *Robb*, a powerful tug-boat, owned by Captain McCallum, down from Dunville, for that purpose, intending to place upon her the Welland Battery, without guns—the men armed with Enfield rifles—and received a reply that she would be down at 3 a. m. the following morning. This was the position of affairs when Capt. Akers, R. E., arrived from Chippewa, sent over by Col. Peacocke to consult and to explain Col. Peacocke's views as to the best mode of attack. After due consideration between Captain Akers, Lieut. Col. Booker, and myself, a certain course was decided, arranging for an attack in concert on that morning, and Col. Peacocke was telegraphed accordingly. In accordance with this plan, Capt. Akers and myself embarked in the tug, which did not arrive, (Memorandum—Our object in this was to ascertain definitely the position of the enemy's camp, as preliminary to the attack), however, till about 4 a. m., having been delayed in consequence of Mr. McCallum wishing to bring with him his naval company from Dunville, and proceeded down to reconnoitre the river and the Fenian camp, arranging to meet the Port Colborne force back at the railway depot, three miles above the enemy's camp, at seven or at the latest half-past seven o'clock. On our way past the village of Fort Erie, we were brought to by the armed patrol tug boat from the United States steamer *Michigan*, who, on finding out who we were, informed us that the Fenian camp on the Newbigging farm had been broken up at 3 a. m. that morning, the enemy having marched down the river road. We proceeded down the river to the mouth of the Black Creek, eight miles above Chippewa, when we learned that they had turned off the river to the west, directly in rear of a place called New Germany. A messenger was at once sent off to Col. Peacocke, we presumed then under previously concerted arrangement to be there moving up, and we returned with the tug in accordance with that arrangement to meet Col. Booker and the upper force at the R. R. depot at Fort Erie. On our arrival there we could see or hear nothing of them. This was accounted for subsequently by

the fact that Lieut. Col. Booker had received, after we left, an order from Col. Peacocke directing him off the R. R. at Ridgeway, some eight miles above Fort Erie, and cross the country in order to meet and attack in concert. This being the case, presuming a combined attack would be made in the course of the day, of the result of which we could have no doubt, I considered, as I could not then join my proper force, that important service could be rendered by patrolling the river to intercept and capture fugitives, and to prevent by every possible means the escape across the river of any large body of the enemy. This having been determined on, Capt. Akers and myself were engaged all day in patrolling the shore and scouring the wood along the river as far down as Black Creek, arresting in all, including six prisoners made about nine o'clock in the morning at Fort Erie, some 23 men. During the course of the afternoon, we learned through some of the prisoners that an engagement had taken place at some point in the interior, in which the Fenians had been utterly dispersed. This I was quite prepared to believe, as I had from the steamer observed Col. Peacocke with a strong force on his way up from Chippewa turning in from the river road towards New Germany, and I knew that Lieut. Col. Booker's force was coming down upon him from the south. Concluding that the action which was known to have come off had resulted in the capture of the enemy, I returned to Fort Erie about half-past five o'clock p. m., proposing to get what information I could about the position of our troops, and to telegraph for instructions as to what should be done with the prisoners who had amounted now, including those taken in the village and neighbourhood during the day, to some 60 or 65 men. The number I can't give precisely, as I had only got as far as those names given in the margin, making out a memorandum of each case. Having, in the meantime, made up my mind to send the prisoners by tug to Welland gaol, I had them brought down and embarked there in charge of the reeve, when the alarm was given that the Fenians were entering the town in force. In fact, the first messenger had hardly delivered the news when a second came in to say that they were within a quarter of a mile coming down the street along the river. I went over from the pier to satisfy myself, and saw them in numbers as I judged about 150, advancing upon the street indicated. Supposing them to be of the material and of the same miserable character, physically, as the prisoners we had been taking all day, I thought the detachment I had with the boat, even if we had to resort to the bayonet, sufficient for them, and concluded that my duty lay in making a stand against them. This detachment consisted, as before mentioned, of the Welland field battery, 54 men and three officers, and of a portion, some eighteen men and one officer. Exclusive of the guard over the prisoners on the boat of the Dunville Naval Company. I first took the precaution to put the prisoners under hatches, and then advancing to meet the enemy about 150 yards, drew up my little command across the street. As they came within about 200 yards they opened fire on us, when my detachment, by order, fired a volley from each of the companies, upon which a severe flank fire was opened on us from the west,