

No. 1.

Earl of Gosford  
to Lord Glenelg,  
23 December 1837.

rage against the peaceable inhabitants, first broke out, and has all along displayed itself with the greatest violence.

On the 10th instant, a small detachment, consisting of two companies of the 32d regiment, and a few of the Royal Artillery, with one gun, was pushed forward to St. Martin, on Isle Jesus, for the purpose of securing the bridge, by which it would be necessary to cross from the Island of Montreal in order to reach the fortified villages of St. Eustache and St. Benoit, the latter situated in that part of the county of the Two Mountains called the "Grand Brulé." On the morning of the 13th the force destined for the expedition left Montreal for St. Eustache, under the immediate command of Sir John Colborne, consisting, besides the detachment already posted at St. Martin, of the royal regiment under Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall; the 32d, under the Honourable Colonel Maitland; the 83d, under the Honourable Lieutenant-colonel Dundas; a portion of the Royal Artillery, with six guns, under Major Jackson, and a number of volunteers, both horse and foot; in all about 1,300 men. On the 14th they crossed the river Ottawa, from Isle Jesus to the mainland, about three miles below St. Eustache, and, after having been fired upon in their approach, invested that village about mid-day. Many of the rebels made their escape on the appearance of the troops, among whom was the supposed Commander-in-chief Girod; but others, to the number, as far as it can be ascertained, of about 400, under the command of Dr. Chenier, obstinately defended themselves in the church and adjoining buildings, which they had barricaded, and from which, after their defences had been destroyed by the artillery, they were driven in about an hour. The church and buildings took fire and were burnt, together with several houses in the village belonging to notorious rebels. The number killed amounted, at the lowest computation, to 100, and 120 were taken prisoners. The loss, on the part of the troops, was one killed and three or four wounded.

The principal leaders in this part of the country were Dr. Chenier, Amury Girod, an alien, W. H. Scott and J. J. Girouard, Members of Parliament, and Mr. Etienne Chartier, a priest and curé of St. Benoit; of these, the two latter are still at large; Chenier was killed in the church at St. Eustache; Scott has since been arrested while attempting to escape, and lodged in the Montreal gaol; and Girod, when on the point of being captured by a party of cavalry despatched for the purpose, shot himself in a house where he had taken refuge. On his body being brought to Montreal, an inquest was held on it, and a verdict returned of "Suicide whilst flying from justice as a rebel."

On the following morning, Friday, the 15th, the troops left St. Eustache for St. Benoit, where it had all along been understood the greatest preparations for resistance had been made, and arrived there shortly after mid-day, unopposed, having on their march been met by a deputation of Canadians, who announced the flight of their leaders, and the anxiety of those remaining in the village to lay down their arms and to surrender unconditionally. If they had not taken this step, the loss of life must have been very severe, as they were completely hemmed in, a force under Major Townshend, consisting of a part of the 24th regiment and a party of volunteers, having, as a combined movement, marched from Carrillon in the opposite direction, and arrived at St. Benoit shortly after Sir John entered it. During the brief stay of the troops at that place, from 150 to 200 individuals surrendered themselves with their arms, and were discharged, in pursuance of a proclamation issued by Sir John Colborne immediately after the affair at St. Eustache, calling upon the *habitans* to come in and lay down their arms, and assuring those who should obey, provided they were not especially implicated in the graver crimes of insurrection, of a free pardon. I regret to add, that this village suffered severely by fire, but whether from design or accident I am not yet informed. The exasperation of the settlers of British origin in the neighbourhood was, I understand, very great, in consequence of the severities they had previously experienced at the hands of the other inhabitants of the parish, and it is not improbable that the desire of retaliation may have led to this destruction of property. It was not the work of the troops.

The following day, the 16th, Sir John Colborne and his staff returned to Montreal with the Volunteer Cavalry. The 32d regiment, under the Hon. Lieutenant-colonel Maitland, marched to the village of St. Scholastique, and were met on their arrival by about 300 persons with flags of truce, who gave themselves up, with about 50 stand of arms. On entering this village, several groups of *habitans* were seen assembled from different parts of the parish to the number

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