

was led by the grenadiers of the 100th regiment with undaunted gallantry which no obstacle could arrest. A narrow causeway, in many places under water, not more than four foot wide and about 400 yards in length which connected the island with the mainland, was occupied by the enemy in great force with a six pounder. It was forced and carried in the most spirited manner and the gun taken before a second discharge could be made from it. A tumbril with a few rounds of ammunition was found but unfortunately the artillerymen were still behind, the schooner not having been able to get up in time, and the troops were exposed to so heavy and galling a fire from a numerous but almost invisible force as to render it impossible to halt for the artillery to come up.

At this spot two paths led in opposite directions round the hill. I detached Colonel Young of the King's regiment with half of the detachment to penetrate by the left and Major Drummond of the 104th to force the path by the right which proved to be more open and less occupied by the enemy. On the left the wood was very thick and was most obstinately maintained by the enemy.

The gunboats which had covered our landing afforded material aid by firing into the woods, but the American soldier secure behind a tree was only to be dislodged by the bayonet. The spirited advance of a section produced the flight of hundreds. From this observation all firing was directed to cease and the detachments being formed in as regular order as the nature of the ground would admit, marched forward through the wood upon the enemy, who, although greatly superior in numbers and supported by field pieces and a heavy fire from their fort, fled with precipitation to their block houses and fort abandoning one of their guns.

The division under Col. Young was joined by that under Major Drummond, which was executed with such spirit and promptness that many of the enemy fell in their enclosed barracks which were set on fire by our troops. At this point the further energies of the troops became unavailing. Their block house and stockaded battery could not be carried by assault nor reduced by field pieces had we been provided with them. The fire of the gunboats proved insufficient to attain that end; light and adverse winds continued and our larger vessels were still far off. The enemy turned the heavy ordnance of the battery to the interior defence of his post. He had set fire to the store-houses in the vicinity of the fort. Seeing no object within our reach to attain that could compensate for the loss we were momentarily sustaining from the heavy fire of the enemy's cannon, I directed the troops to take up the position on the crest of the hill we had charged from. From this position we were ordered to re-embark which was performed at our leisure and in perfect order, the enemy not presuming to show a single soldier without the limits of his fortifications. Your Excellency having been a witness of the zeal and ardent courage of every soldier in the field, it is unnecessary in me to assure your Excellency that but one sentiment animated every breast—that of discharging to the utmost of their power their duty to their king and country. But a sentiment of mortification prevailed on being obliged to quit a beaten enemy, whom a small band of British soldiers had driven before them for three hours through a country bounding in strong positions of defence, and not offering a single spot of cleared ground favourable for the operations of disciplined troops, without having fully accomplished the duty we were ordered to perform.

The two divisions of the detachment were ably commanded by Col. Young of the King's, and Major Drummond of the 104th. The detachment of the King's under Major Evans nobly sustained the high and established character of that distinguished corps, and Capt. Baker availed himself of the ample field afforded him in leading the advance to display the intrepidity of British Grenadiers.

The detachment of the 104th under Major Moodie, Capt. McPherson's company of Glengarry light infantry, and two companies of Canadian Voltigeurs, commanded by Major Hammel, all of those levies of the British Provinces of North America evinced most striking proof of their loyalty, steadiness, and courage. The detachment of the Royal Newfoundland regiment behaved with great gallantry. Your Excellency will lament the loss of that active and intelligent officer Capt. Gray, acting Deputy-Quartermaster-General, who fell close to the enemy's work while reconnoitering it in the hope to discover some opening to favour an assault. Commodore Sir James Yeo commanded the fleet of boats in the attack and accompanying the advance of the troops directed the co-operation of the gunboats. I feel most grateful for your Excellency's kind consideration in allowing your aides-de-camp, Majors Coote and Fulton, to accompany me in the field, and to those officers for the able assistance they afforded me.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

EDWARD BAYNES,

Col. Glengarry Light Infantry, commanding.  
To His Excellency, Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Prevost, Bart., &c.

Col. Baynes was, no doubt, a very accommodating officer; the despatch is one of those curiosities of literature which are sometimes met with.

### THE RIVER AMAZON.

The Amazon rises in the little Peruvian Lake of Lauricocha, just below the limits of perpetual snow. For 500 miles it flows swiftly through a deep valley. Then turning sharply eastward, it runs 2300 miles across the equatorial plain. Two thousand miles above its mouth its width is ten miles at the head of the delta, where it divides, and, after running 400 miles, presents a front of 150 miles upon the ocean. For a great distance it is bordered by side channels or "bayous" as they are called upon the Mississippi, named by the Indians *iparepes*, or "canoe-paths." From Santarem, the principal town above Para, one may paddle a thousand miles parallel to the river without entering the stream. For twenty-five degrees of latitude every river that flows down the eastern side of the Andes is an affluent of the Amazon. It is as though all the rivers from Mexico to Oregon united their waters in the Mississippi.—A half score of these tributaries are larger—the Danube excepted—than any European river out of Russia. The volume of its waters is greater than even the breadth of the river would indicate. At Nauta, 2300 miles from its mouth, the depth is forty feet, increasing rapidly as it approaches the ocean. The largest ocean steamer could doubtless steam 2000 miles up the Amazon.

The vegetation of the valley is exuberant. There is a bewildering diversity of grand and beautiful trees, a wild, unconquered race of vegetable giants, draped and festooned by creeping plants. The moment you land upon the shore you are confronted by a solid wall of vegetation, through which,

if you wish to proceed, you must hew your way with axe or machete. Palms, of which thirteen varieties are noted, constitute the majority of trees. Then there are "cow trees," a hundred and fifty feet high, yielding a milk of the consistency of cream, used for tea, coffee and custards. The "cancho," or rubber tree, though of a different species from that of the East Indies, produces a gum which constitutes most of the rubber of commerce. Agassiz put this tree forty or fifty feet high in the same class with the "milkweed" of our American pastures. Of ornamental woods there is no end. Foremost among these is the *Moria-Pinima*, or a "tortoise shell wood," the most beautiful in grain color of any in the world. Enough of this is wasted every year to veneer all the dwellings of the civilized world. For many years to come the exports of the Amazon Valley must be mainly the products of the forest. Yet, strangely enough, timber is now one of the principal articles of import at Para. A city of 35,000 inhabitants, lying on the verge of a great forest, buys pine boards from far away Maine! This folly will in time come to an end. Contrary to all we may expect, the climate of the Amazon Valley is temperate rather than tropical. It is more equal than in any other climate of the world. Year in and year out it ranges from seventy-four to eighty degrees—the fair mean being eighty degrees.

### IRELAND'S LIBERATORS.

The Executive Council of nine, appointed by the Fenian Congress, at Chicago, are Jas. Gibbons, Pennsylvania; P. J. Mehan New Jersey; C. P. McKay and Frank Agnew, Illinois; Frank Gallagher and E. L. Carey, New York; J. W. Fitzgerald, Ohio; Lawrence Finnegan, Maryland; and Richard McCloud, Connecticut. The following named were appointed legates to the convention to be held in New York city about the 19th instant:—Col. Coogrove and John F. Finnerty, Illinois; Major C. Williams, Pennsylvania; and Cap. W. McLaughlin, Colorado. It is intended that five of the above Executive Council shall resign, so that the New York Convention may elect four, leaving one member to be chosen by the other eight. In the Congress the Pope's Bull was discussed, and elicited some warm discussion. As far as can be learned, the sentiments were hostile to clerical interference in political matters or matters pertaining to the Irish nation. The question of making the organization a secret one was also debated and decided, it is understood, in the negative. The subject of the Red River rebellion was debated.

### FOR RED RIVER.

Lt.-Col. Campbell informs us that he has received instructions to call for volunteers for Red River, from the 15th Battalion. The quota of his Battalion is seven men. The officers for the expedition will be chosen according to their merit and former services. Any member of the Battalion wishing to volunteer is requested to leave his name at the office of Col. Campbell, where all necessary information may be obtained. The pay we understand for Color Sergeants is \$18; Sergeants, \$15; Corporals, \$13; Privates, \$12 per month. The men required for this expedition are required to report to the Deputy Adjutant General at Kingston, on or before the 30th April.—*Intelligencer*.

The officers of the *Monarch* speak very highly of the treatment they received while in the United States.