

FORT GEORGE, Dec. 12th, 1813.

SIR:—Having obtained information that the enemy had determined on driving the country between Fort George and the advance and was carrying off the loyal part of the inhabitants. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the season I deemed it my duty to make a rapid and forced march towards him with the light troops under my command which not only frustrated his design but compelled him to evacuate Fort George by precipitately crossing the river and abandoning the whole of the Niagara frontier. On hearing of our approach he laid the town of Newark in ashes, passed over his cannon and stores but failed in an attempt to destroy the fortifications, which were evidently so much strengthened whilst in his possession as might have enabled General McClure (the commanding officer) to have maintained a rigorous siege, but such was the apparent panic that he left the whole of his tents standing. I trust the indefatigable exertions of this handful of men have rendered an essential service to the country by rescuing from a merciless enemy the inhabitants of an extensive and highly cultivated tract of land stored with cattle, grain and provisions of every description, and it must be an exultation to them to find themselves delivered from the oppression of a lawless banditti composed of the disaffected of the country organized under the direct influence of the American Government who carried terror and dismay into every family.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

J. MURRAY,
Colonel.

To Major General Vincent, &c.

The capture of Fort George by a force every way inferior to its garrison shews what terror had fallen on the United States officers and soldiers by the defeats at Chateaugay and Chrysler's Farm, but more humiliation was in store for them: they had been driven out of Canada in headlong flight by less than one-third their own numbers; they had ruthlessly and cruelly set at defiance the rules of civilized warfare, and applied the torch of the incendiary to the dwellings of the non-combatant as well as plundered the helpless women and children without mercy or stint, they were now about to be made feel the effects of retaliation which did not cease till their frontier was laid waste and their capital utterly destroyed. Early in November, Lieut.-General Drummond and Major General Rial had arrived from England, the former to relieve General de Rottenburg in the military command and Presidency of the Upper Province; they had been detained till after the battle of Chrysler's Farm and then moved on to Kingston and York where General Drummond being sworn into office both Generals then hastened to join Major General Vincent at St. David's, soon after the capture of Fort George.

Colonel Murray planned an attack on Fort Niagara which was approved of although no more than two batteaux could be procured for the enterprise, but Capt. Kerby, a militia officer of the district, at once transported overland a sufficient number. Every thing being in readiness, the troops, consisting of a small detachment of Royal Artillery,

the grenadiers of the Royal Scots, the flank companies of the 2nd battalion 41st regiment and the effective men of the 100th, in all 550 rank and file, crossed the Niagara river on the night of the 18th Dec., and landed at the Five Mile Meadows on the American shore about three miles above Fort Niagara and at about four o'clock in the morning commenced their march on that point; the following despatch will detail the result:

FORT NIAGARA, Dec. 19th, 1813.

SIR:—In obedience to your Honor's commands directing me to attack Fort Niagara with the advance of the army of the night, I resolved upon attempting a surprise. The embarkation commenced on the 18th at night and the whole of the troops were landed three miles from the fort early on the following morning in the following order of attack:—advanced guard, one subaltern and twenty rank and file; grenadiers 100th regiment, royal artillery with grenadiers, five companies 100th regiment, under Lt. Col. Hamilton, to assault the main gate and escalade the works adjacent, three companies of the 100th regiment, under Captain Martin, to storm the eastern demi-bastion, Capt. Bailey with the grenadiers royal Scots was directed to attack the salient angle of the fortification and flank companies of the 41st regt. were ordered to support the principal attack. Each party was provided with scaling ladders and axes. I have great satisfaction in acquainting your honor that the fortress was carried by assault in the most resolute and gallant manner after a short but spirited resistance.

The highly gratifying but difficult duty remains, to do justice to the bravery, intrepidity, and devotion of the 100th regiment to the service of their country, under that gallant officer, Lieut. Col. Hamilton, to whom I feel highly indebted for his cordial assistance. Captain Martin, 100th regiment, who executed the task allotted to him in the most intrepid manner merits the greatest praise. I have to express my admiration of the value of the Royals' Grenadiers under Capt. Bailey, whose zeal and gallantry were very conspicuous. The just tribute of my applause is equally due to the flank companies of the 41st regiment, under Lieut. Bullock, who advanced to the attack with great spirit. The Royal Artillery, under Lieut. Charlton, deserve my particular notice. To Captain Elliot, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, who conducted one of the columns of the attack and superintended the embarkation, I feel highly obliged. I cannot pass over the brilliant services of Lieut. Dawson and Captain Fawcett, 100th regiment, in command of the advance and Grenadiers, who gallantly executed the orders entrusted to them by entirely cutting off two of the enemy's pickets and surprising the sentries on the glacis, and at the gate, by which means the watchword was obtained and the entrance into the fort greatly facilitated, to which may be attributed in a great degree our trifling loss. I beg leave to recommend those meritorious officers to your honor's protection. The scientific knowledge of Lieut. Gengueben, Royal Engineers, in suggesting arrangements previous to attack, and for securing the fort afterwards, I cannot too highly appreciate. The unwearied exertions of acting Quartermaster Pilkington, 100th regiment, in bringing forward materials requisite for the attack demand my acknowledgments. Captain Kirby, Lieutenants Ball, Scroods, and Hamilton, of the different Provincial corps, deserve my thanks. My Staff Adjutant, Mr.

Brampton, will have the honor of presenting this despatch and the standard of the American garrison; to his intelligence, valor, and friendly assistance, not only on this trying occasion, but on many former, I feel most grateful. Our force consisted of about 500 rank and file; annexed is a return of our casualties and the enemy's loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The ordnance and ammunition stores are so immense that it is totally out of my power to forward you a correct statement for some days, but twenty-seven pieces of cannon of different calibres are on the works, and upwards of 3000 stand of arms and many rifles are in the arsenal. The store houses are full of clothing and camp equipage of every description.

J. MURRAY, Colonel.

His Honor Lieut. Gen. Drummond.

The British loss was six men killed and five wounded. The Americans lost 65 killed 14 wounded, and 344 prisoners. Amongst the valuables found in the fort were eight patriotic Canadians, who were treated to a taste of dungeon life in the home of the brave and the free.

TERMS OF UNION WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We now know exactly what are proposed by British Columbia as the terms upon which it is willing to enter the Canadian Confederacy. They are briefly as follows:—

1. Canada to be liable for the debts of British Columbia, at the date of union.

2. Population, for the purposes of financial arrangements, shall be placed at 120,000; and British Columbia, not having incurred debts equal to those of other Provinces which now constitute the Dominion, shall receive interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on the amount of indebtedness at the date of union and on the proportion of the public debt of Canada, which sum shall be paid in half-yearly instalments, in advance.

3. For the support of the British Columbia Local Government and Legislature the following sums shall be paid:—An annual grant of \$35,000; and a further sum, equal to 80 cent per head of the population per annum, both payable half-yearly in advance. Such grant of 80 cents per head is to go on increasing with the population until the population amount to 400,000, when the grant shall remain stationary at that point.

4. A first class graving-dock shall be constructed at Esquimalt, the Dominion guaranteeing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on such sums, not exceeding \$500,000 in the aggregate, as may be required for that purpose.

5. The Dominion to defray the charges of the following services: (a) Salary and allowance of the Lieutenant-Governor; (b) salaries and allowances of the Judges and officers of the Supreme Court and the County Courts; (c) charges connected with the Customs Department; (d) ditto Postal Department; (e) ditto lighthouses, buoys, beacons, lightships and all such further charges as may be incident to and connected with the services which, by the British North America Act of 1867, appertain to the General Government, and as are or may afterwards be allowed by the different Provinces.

6. Suitable pensions, to be approved of by Her Majesty's Government, shall be provided by the Dominion Government for those of her Majesty's servants in the colony, whose position and emoluments derived therefrom will be affected by changes conse-