

LOWER CANADA.

—No. 1.—

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Earl of Gosford to Lord Glenelg.

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Earl of Gosford
to Lord Glenelg,
23 December 1837.

Vide Papers relative
to the Affairs of
Canada, presented
to Parliament
16 January 1838,
page 14.

My Lord,

Castle of St. Lewis, Quebec, 23 December 1837.

IN my Despatch of the 6th instant, No. 130, I informed your Lordship of Lieutenant-colonel Wetherall's safe return to Montreal on the 20th ultimo, and that Colonel Gore, who had been a second time despatched to make another attack on St. Denis, if necessary, had passed unopposed through that place and St. Charles on his way to St. Hyacinthe, where it was reported the rebels had collected.

I have now the honour to acquaint you, in continuation, that this report proved unfounded, and that Colonel Gore entered St. Hyacinthe on the 4th instant, without opposition, or without having succeeded in securing (which was one of the objects of his mission) any of the rebel leaders; and after leaving a part of his force in St. Denis and St. Charles, returned with the remainder to Montreal on the 7th, bringing in the five wounded soldiers left behind on his former expedition, and the body of Lieutenant Weir, which was found concealed in the waters of the Richelieu. It now appears that, when the first attack was made on St. Denis, this young officer, who, from taking a wrong route, had been captured by the rebels, was sent off by them in a waggon to St. Charles, closely pinioned, and in charge of three or four of their party, who inhumanly murdered him on the road. This tragical event, and another deliberate and unprovoked murder committed a short time afterwards near St. John's by some of the insurgents, upon a loyal Canadian named Chartrand, on account, it is supposed, of his having joined one of the volunteer corps, have excited a great sensation in the public mind, and I did not hesitate to issue proclamations, offering a reward of 500*l.* for the apprehension of the murderers of Lieutenant Weir, and of 300 *l.* for the apprehension of those implicated in the murder of Chartrand. I am happy to add, that the persons believed to have been principally concerned in both these atrocities are now secured in the Montreal gaol.

After the complete dispersion of the insurgents in the counties on the banks of the Richelieu, their leaders betook themselves to the United States. One of them, however, Wolfred Nelson, who commanded at St. Denis, was captured near the lines by a small party of the Missiskoui volunteers, and is now in gaol at Montreal. Others reached the States, where they have been in some degree successful in exciting in favour of the rebel cause the sympathy of a portion of the lower classes of the inhabitants of the State of Vermont, and obtaining assistance in warlike supplies. A body of about 200 who had crossed over to Swanton in that State from the county of Acadie and its neighbourhood, for the purpose of joining their leaders and procuring arms and ammunition, were encountered on their return on the night of the 6th instant, near the village of Philipsburg, in the county of Missiskoui, by a party of loyal volunteers under the immediate command of Captain O. J. Kemp, who had but an hour or two previous received a supply of arms which had been sent from Montreal for distribution, and after an engagement of about 10 minutes, the rebels were forced to retreat over the lines, with the loss of one killed, five prisoners, two pieces of cannon, 70 muskets, two standards, and a small quantity of ammunition, and without any casualty on the part of the volunteers. Among the wounded, the number of which is not known, were the two leaders, Gagnon and R. S. M. Bouchette, the former of whom has since died of his wounds in the States, and the latter, who was taken prisoner, is now in the Montreal gaol. This was really a spirited affair on the part of the volunteers, who turned out on the shortest notice, and almost unprepared, to attack the rebels, with a zeal and determination that cannot fail to produce a most salutary impression on both sides of the lines.

I now proceed to inform your Lordship of the military operations that have taken place in the county of the Two Mountains, where, as mentioned in my despatch of the 6th instant, the rebels were understood to have intrenched themselves in force, and where the spirit of disaffection, accompanied by acts of out-