

Buffalo, May 31.

CHAS. D. NORTON, Esq.,

Collector of Customs for District of Buffalo Creek.

SIR,—Until further directed you will not clear any vessel from your port out of office hours, and you will not permit any vessel to depart from the port without inspecting her cargo.

Yours truly,

WM. A. DART.

United States Attorney, North District of New York.

May 31.

Pursuant to the instructions contained in the foregoing letter of District Attorney Dart, no vessel will be allowed to clear from the port of Buffalo between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. without inspection of her cargo by officers of the Custom House, and no vessel will be permitted to clear between the hours of 4 p. m. of any day and 9 a. m. of the following day, under any circumstances, until instructions are received from the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Signed)

CHARLES D. NORTON,

Collector of Customs.

It was also stated that "the commandant of Fort Porter is on the alert, and says if the Fenians attempt to take the international steamer to cross, he has his guns so sighted as to sink her. The U. S. steamer is also on the alert in the Erio Basin, with steam up and guns shotted."

The last despatches before the actual crossing were from Buffalo, Friday morning, 3.20 and 3.30 a. m., and stated: Reporters of *Express* have just returned from a point one mile and a half below Lower Black Rock. The head of the Fenian column, 600 strong, had reached that point when they left. Nine waggons loaded with arms and ammunition preceded them. They declare they will effect a crossing before daylight.

And the last: Two reporters, who left to reconnoitre the river shore between here and Tonawanda, have just returned, and report that they found the straggling parties whose movements were so skillfully confused at first had proceeded to Black Rock and down the river toward some point of crossing below. The number in the several columns observed was not less than 600 men moving in perfect order with silence and celerity under capable officers. At a point half a mile below Lower Black Rock a train of nine waggons heavily loaded with arms and ammunition was found waiting in consequence of some delay. The train consisted of five large double waggons and four furniture waggons. Between one and two o'clock the train, which had halted for some time, started forward.

Immediately after this

THE RAID BEGAN.

A body of Fenians, variously estimated at from 650 to 1,340 strong, crossed the Niagara River at Black Rock, a small village on the American side two miles below the City of Buffalo, and took possession of the village of Fort Erie—the Canadian terminus of the Buffalo and Goderich section of the Grand Trunk Railway. The crossing was effected by means of canal boats, towed over by a steam tug. The crossing commenced shortly after three o'clock in the morning, and was effected by five. Fort