

THE LATE FENIAN RAID.

The following parody on Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade" is as graphic and truthful a description of the late Fenian Raid, as Tennyson gave of the charge of the six hundred at Balaclava;

A little way, a little way,
A little way onward,
Into the Lion's mouth
Went the Fenian few hundred,
"Forward ye Irish, now for a raid
And Canada is yours, be jabers," he said;
Into the Lion's mouth
Went the few hundred.

"Forward," said O'Neill, "altho' I'm afraid
The Fenian army is sorely dismayed."
For then the madman knew
That they had blundered;
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs not to fight or die,
Theirs but to run, hoot, and cry,
So out of danger's way,
Ran the few hundred.

Breech-loaders to right of them,
Breech-loaders to left of them,
Artillery around them
Volley'd and thundered;
Stormed at and fired at well,
They gave a horrid Irish yell,
As into the jaws of death,
Into the Lion's mouth they fell
Some of the few hundred!

Fluttered their coat tails high in the air,
Fluttered as they ran with fear,
Causing a noble Prince to cheer—
Thrw'ing their arms away—
While Pigeon Hill, it wondered—
Stuffed with British powder and smoke
Back across the line they broke,
The wretches reeling, they went
Drunken and bungered!

Then they went home,
But not—not all the few hundred.
Breech-loaders to right of them,
Breech-loaders to left of them,
Artillery around them
Volley'd and thundered;
Stormed at and fired at well,
They gave a hideous Fenian yell.
They who had ran so well,
Came thro' the jaws of Death,
Back from Brave Pigeon Hill,
All that was left of them—
Left of the few hundred

When shall their glory fade?
Oh! the fine retreat they made
While nothing they have plundered;
Honor the retreat they made,
Remember the Second Fenian aid,
And the ragged few hundred.

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

XVII.

Intelligence of the defeat on the Thames reached General Vincent, who again, in the absence of General DeRottenburg, commanded on the Niagara frontier, on the 9th October; he had established his headquarters at the cross roads, within a short distance of Newark, in which village his advance pickets occasionally showed themselves, keeping within the walls of Fort Major General McClure and an American force of 2700 men. Proctor's defeat made a retreat to Burlington Heights a matter of necessity, and this was at once effected; he was here joined by General Proctor with the remnant of the right division. Immediately on the news of the disaster reaching Sir George Prevost he issued an order to General Vincent to evacuate all the British posts west of Kingston, on which fortress he was to fall back without delay, but the latter was a thorough soldier, knew the consequences of such a manœuvre would be most disastrous, and felt satisfied that he could hold the American army in check, besides he did not like to abandon the gallant militia who had fought through the cam-

paign with a devotion, steadiness and bravery unequalled by any troops; he, therefore, called a council of war to whom he represented that Kingston, on which he was ordered to fall back, had not more than one week's provisions, that at Burlington Heights and York there were a large number of sick and at that season of the year and with such roads the whole of them should be abandoned to the enemy, that for the same reason the artillery, ordnance stores, and baggage should be abandoned, that it would at once alienate the Indian allies, that the position occupied could not be turned and in fair fight they had nought to fear, and lastly he would not abandon the militia who had served so well and faithfully. As a matter of course the council coincided in opinion and the tide of disaster was at once arrested; Sir George Prevost's orders were not obeyed. The advanced posts of what had been the right division of the British army were called in and orders issued to disembody and disarm the militia; it is a pity General Vincent did not disobey this order also, as the local force was amply sufficient to have dealt with the Yankees, as after events proved. It was ascertained that the London district was infested by a body of marauders composed of traitors and American adventurers, and that they had been plundering the houses of the inhabitants while the men were away on militia service. The officer immediately charged with receiving the arms of the militia soldiers agreed to leave a supply of arms and ammunition in their hands. The men thus favoured formed themselves into an association, marched against the band, overtook them at Detroit, nine miles from Dover, on Lake Erie, defeated them with great loss after a sharp engagement, captured eighteen prisoners which they marched to Ancaster jail where they were tried for high treason and fifteen convicted, eight of whom suffered the penalty of the law; this gallant action was noticed by the following General Order:—

DISTRICT GENERAL ORDER.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,
25th Nov., 1813.

The Major General commanding and president having received from Major General Vincent a report of the very gallant and patriotic conduct of Lieut.-Colonel Bostwick and an association of forty-five officers and men of the militia of the county of Norfolk in capturing and destroying a band of traitors who in violation of their allegiance and of every principal of honor and honesty had leagued themselves with the enemies of their country, to plunder and make prisoners the peaceable and well disposed inhabitants of the Province. Major General de Rottenburg requests that Colonel Bostwick and every individual of the association will accept his best thanks for their zeal and loyalty in planning and gallantry in carrying into execution this most useful and public spirited enterprise.

The Major General and President hopes that so striking an instance of the beneficial effects of unanimity and exertion in the

cause of their country will not fail of producing a due effect on the militia of this Province. He calls upon them to observe how quickly the energetic conduct of forty-five individuals has succeeded in freeing the inhabitants of an extensive district from a numerous and well armed banditti who would soon have lost them neither liberty nor property. He reminds them if so much can be effected by so small a number what may not be expected from the unanimous exertions of the whole population guided and assisted by a spirit of subordination and aided by His Majesty's troops against an enemy who comes for no other purpose than to enslave, plunder and destroy.

By order,

H. N. Monson,
Lieut., A.D., A.G.

General DeRottenburg's failing was that of sermonising a little too much; he took every opportunity and often no opportunity at all to improve the occasion, and in this instance while thanking the handful of militia whose gallantry had achieved a great success, he preaches the doctrine of combined resistance to their fellows who had been disbanded under his orders. It is not too much to say that those very militia soldiers had practically enforced the principles about which the General theorised, and that Major General Vincent would have utilized the military element which existed in another fashion. General McClure, in command of the American garrison of Fort George finding he could not shake the loyalty of the inhabitants in its neighborhood, systematically set to work to pillage and burn the farm houses in the vicinity of his garrison; the inhabitants represented this to General Vincent and urged that a small force of soldiers and Indians be sent to check these operations. Accordingly a force of 379 rank and file of the 100th regiment, 20 Volunteers and 79 Indians marched under Colonel Murray to Forty Mile Creek; the American troops had advanced to Twenty Mile Creek, but were no sooner apprised of this forward movement than they fell back to Twelve Mile Creek and on the advance of the British to Fort George, the dastardly fellow having heard of Wilkinson's defeats determined to evacuate the Fort, and on the evening of the 10th of December as a preparatory step burned every house except one in the town of Newark leaving the owners to seek shelter where it might be found during the inclemency of a Canadian winter night. Upwards of 400 women and children were thus at once blow deprived of food and shelter; one in particular was carried out in her bed and laid in the street while the torch was applied to her happy home, while the husband was a prisoner in Fort Niagara. Colonel Murray had pushed on with his small detachment and that cowardly wretch McClure abandoned the fort leaving tents for 1500 men standing, the new barrack recently built intact, and a large quantity of stores and artillery; the following despatch will detail the operations which compelled the Yankee General to this hasty flight.