

flotilla lost two barges, 3 men killed and 7 wounded.

The incessant activity of Sir George Cockburn, between the first of July and middle of August, had swept all the rivers and creeks emptying into Chesapeake bay for a distance of 20 miles clear of the shore of all enemies, ships, tobacco and provisions, and intimately acquainted himself with the topography of the country. On the 14th Major General Ross with a body of troops arrived off the mouth of the Potomac. The arrival of this officer infused new energy into the desultory proceedings about to be undertaken, and an attack on the City of Washington was at once decided on, the object being simply to do as much mischief as possible because the force employed was not sufficient to hold their conquest, and thus teach the enemy a lesson of strategy which would make them appreciate the difference between a well appointed military force maintained by a power capable of guarding its own prestige and a power existing by forbearance who now engaged in war *en amateur*.

On the 17th August the whole fleet moved to the Patuxent. Captain James Alexander Gordon in the 38-gun frigate Sea Horse with some vessels of the squadron, had been detached up the Potomac to bombard Fort Washington 14 miles below the Federal capital, and Captain Sir Peter Parker with the 38-gun frigate Menelaus had been sent up the Chesapeake above Baltimore. The direct route to Washington from the mouth of the Potomac was up that river about fifty miles to Fort Tobacco, thence over land by the village of Piscataway for thirty-two miles to the lower bridge across the Eastern branch, but as no doubt could be entertained that this bridge which was half a mile in length and had a draw-bridge at the western end would be defended as well by troops as by a heavy sloop of war and an armed schooner known to be in the river, a preference was given to the route up the Patuxent and by Bladenburg where the eastern branch, in case of the bridge at that spot being destroyed, could be easily forded.

Commodore Barney's flotilla of gunboats still lying in the Patuxent it was determined either to capture or destroy them, and this apparent object would cover the advance on Washington. On the 19th of August a gun brig armed with long 32 pounders took up a position about 150 yards from the village of St. Benedict on the right bank of the river where it was determined the disembarkation should take place, and aided by the boats of the fleet this was effected by three o'clock p.m., the army occupying a strong position two miles above the village. The whole force of all arms consisted of about 4,500 men formed into three brigades, the first commanded by Colonel Thornton of the 85th Regiment, consisted of the light infantry companies of the 4th, 21st and 44th Regts., and the 88th Regiment, with some disciplin-

ed negroes and a company of marines, in all about 1,100 men; the second composed of the 4th and 44th Regiments mustered 1,460 bayonets was commanded by Colonel Brooke of the 44th, and the third was made up of the 21st Regiment and a battalion of marines numbered about 1,500 men, the whole of the infantry may be taken at 4,000 men. The Artillery consisted of 100 gunners and 100 drivers, but only *one* 6-pounder and *two* 3 pounders were brought on shore; as no horses were provided these were dragged by a detachment of 100 seamen: about the same number were occupied in carrying stores, ammunition and other necessaries, to which were joined 50 sappers and minners, and the whole force destined for the capture of the capital of the United States with all the appliances for that object are presented to the reader in detail.

After occupying Nottingham, (where a large quantity of tobacco was seized for the service of His Britannic Majesty and Marlborough,) above which town the American flotilla of gunboats were stationed, on the morning of the 23rd the armed boats and tenders of the fleet which had protected the right of the army advanced to the attack of the gunboats — on nearing the headmost vessel (a large sloop carrying Commodore Barney's broad pendant) she was observed to be on fire as were 15 out of 16 of the gunboats, one only being captured with 13 merchant schooners which were partly destroyed and partly laden with the *captured tobacco*.

Early on the 23rd the troops commenced their march on Washington, distant from Marlborough 16 miles, the American army falling back before them with trifling resistance, and being deceived by a feint with the idea that the destination of the British troops was Alexandria retired with the design of taking up a position to cover that city, thus allowing them to bivouac at a place called Woodyard; here having received a convoy of provisions preparations were made for a rapid march on Washington on the appearance of daylight.

#### VOLUNTEER DINNER.

The first Volunteer dinner of the officers of the force in Kingston and adjoining counties, was held last evening in the British American Hotel, and proved a great success. Lieut.-Col. Paton, of the 11th P. W. O., was in the chair, with Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, of the 47th, as vice-chairman. Among the guests were Colonel Glenville, R. A.; the Mayor of Kingston, Wm. Robinson, Esq.; Wm. Ferguson, Esq., Sheriff; D. D. Calvin, Esq., M. P. P.; Lieut.-Col. Corbett, commanding the 1st Frontenac; Capt F. Draper, of the Queen's Own, Toronto; Capt. Mackay, Town Major; Lieut. Yeatman, R. A., &c. The corps represented were the 14th P. W. O. Rifles of Kingston; the 47th battalion, the 48th battalion, the Volunteer Field Battery, and the Cavalry of Kingston and Frontenac.

The dinner was an excellent one and the band of the 14th P. W. O. played an excellent selection of music during and after the dinner. Among the Regular Toasts were, the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the royal family, the Princess's health being received with special enthusiasm by the officers of Her own regiment.

The Governor-General of Canada, and commander of the forces,

The army and navy. Colonel Glenville R. A. answered for the army, and spoke in very pleasing terms of his interest in the Volunteers, and more especially of the very efficient Field Battery of Kingston, commanded by Major Drummond. D. D. Calvin, Esq. M. P. P., responded for the Navy, as the owner of a portion of the gun-boat flotilla.

The next toast was the Legislatures of the Dominion, and of the Province of Ontario, in response to which and the preceding toast, Mr. Calvin made an able speech. The Volunteers he affirmed were deserving of much greater encouragement than they had yet received, and should be paid more liberally and in proportion to their services and value to the country. Mr. Calvin then went on to speak of the wooden railroad now about to be constructed; such a line was deserving of every encouragement from the city of Kingston and county of Frontenac, and it would have his fullest support. In rear of Kingston lay vast tracts of unoccupied lands, rich in minerals and timber, and a grant of the public lands in this region would be sufficient in time to pay for the road from cord wood alone. Mr. Calvin eloquently advocated the claims of the railroad, not only as likely to bring prosperity to the city, but also as opening up the vast regions of country in rear.

Colonel Paton then proposed the next toast, the Mayor and Corporation, and adverted to the important statements just made by Mr. Calvin. He had pleasure in announcing that the long talked of wooden railroads had that day been fairly launched, and the prospect would soon be published. At an expense of \$110,000 a wooden railroad of 20 miles in length could be constructed, equipped with rolling stock, and put in operation. By means of this route the hitherto inaccessible regions in rear of Kingston would be at once opened up, with all their wealth of timber, produce and minerals. It now depended upon the Mayor, Corporation and citizens of Kingston to say if this most important tributary to the trade of the city should be constructed, and it was very encouraging to hear the practical views of Mr. Calvin in its favour. Earnestly believing that the road would bring fresh prosperity to the good old city, and that the trade in cordwood along with the townships in rear would make it a remunerative enterprise, he trusted that it would receive liberal support from the citizens of Kingston. He then, amid great applause, proposed the health of the Mayor and Corporation.

The Mayor, Wm. Robinson, Esq., responded in an excellent speech. He had long felt a deep interest in the Volunteers, and rejoiced in this opportunity of meeting them. That the rank and file of the force should be paid in proportion to the value of their time was only fair, and he cordially agreed with Mr. Calvin in advocating an increase to their scanty remuneration. With respect to the wooden railroad, now receiving so much consideration, he was strongly in favour of such a scheme, promising as it did to open up the back country and bring trade and prosperity to the good old city. The finances of the city were in a most satisfactory condition, the debt in course of rapid reduction, and he felt sure that in two years from now they would be able to report that their load of debt was reduced to a sum comparatively trifling. He wished the wooden railroad all success, and trusted that it would be encouraged by the citizens as well as by a liberal grant of public lands.

The next toast was the Reserve Militia, coupled with the names of Colonel Ferguson and Colonel Corbett, to which those gentlemen responded. Great amusements was created by the remark that they were the nurses of the Volunteer Force, looking after their younger brethren, ready to take care of them in case of need, and to fill up any deficiencies in their ranks.

The regular toasts being now ended, the Mayor proposed the health of the Volunteers, again expressing his interest in them and his best wishes for their prosperity. This was responded to by the officers commanding the various corps, viz: Lieut.-Col. Paton, of the 14th, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton of the 47th, Lieut.-Col. Fowler of the 48th, Major Drummond of the Field Battery, and Major Duff of the Cavalry.

The health of the popular Town-major, Capt. Mackay, was then given amid much enthusiasm, also of Captain Frank Draper, of the Queen's Own, Toronto.

An interesting feature in the proceedings was the general response to an appeal from Captain Werner, of the 14th, in favour of a Brigade Rifle Association, affiliated to that of the Dominion, which met with so much encouragement that there can be little doubt of its being soon successfully put in operation, all the officers present promising their co-operation.

Thus terminated a highly successful gathering of the Volunteer Officers of Kingston and of the Counties of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington, one which cannot fail to add fresh interest to the patriotic cause in which they are engaged, and which it was enthusiastically resolved should be repeated annually, if not oftener. — Kingston News