

the ship was to anchor till daylight, and then run down to Morant Bay.

10. Having thus done all in my power at the time and without the least delay, I returned to my temporary residence at Flamstead, in the Mountains, to be present at a dinner party which was to meet there the next day.

11. On that day (Thursday, the 12th), about half-past 4 p.m., I received a private letter from a Mr Davidson, a magistrate of St David's, which had been sent across the country, stating that it was reported the blacks had risen and murdered the Baron, two sons of the rector of the parish (Mr Cooke), and several other persons, and stating that it was expected the rebels were coming along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley to destroy the properties contiguous thereto, and to murder the white and coloured inhabitants.

12. Upon receiving this communication I wrote a hasty application to the General for 200 more troops, and then at once got upon my horse, and set off for Kingston. When about half-way down the Mountain, I met a messenger from the Custos of Kingston, corroborating the intelligence I had already received. Upon arriving at the residence of General O'Connor about 7 p.m., I found the news of the massacre had reached Kingston about 2 p.m.

The General at the time was absent at Port Royal reviewing the troops, but an express was sent to him by the Custos of Kingston. This express met him about 3 p.m., as he was returning in a small gun-boat from Port Royal. He at once put back to Port Royal, and directed the embarkation from thence of another 100 men on board the gunboat "Onyx," to proceed to the scene of the disturbance. By 6 p.m. they were on board, and all ready to sail at daybreak the next morning.

13. Finding that the General had thus promptly and judiciously anticipated to a considerable extent the requisition I had written, it appeared to me that the only additional step to be taken immediately, was to detach a company of white troops from Newcastle, to proceed along the line of the Blue Mountain Valley, and try to intercept the rebels who were said to be coming up in that direction, whilst a party could be detached from Morant Bay to meet and co-operate with them. This was accordingly done; by midnight the order was sent off to Newcastle, and soon after 3 a.m. the company was under arms marching to execute the service. A letter having been written by me to General Jackson, an old Indian officer of ability and experience, requesting him to attach himself to the party in his capacity as a Justice of the Peace, and to afford the benefit of his local information and general experience.

14. The Executive Committee met me in consultation at the residence of General O'Connor, and expresses were sent out to collect the Privy Council, which was assembled a little before midnight.

The result of the deliberation was, that it was considered expedient at once to declare martial law, and notices were forthwith sent out to the members of the Privy Council and members of Assembly to meet at 8 a.m. next morning to hold a Council of War, this being the legal formality required by the 9th Vict., cap. 35, secs. 95, 6, 7, and 8.

15. Considering the extreme urgency of the case and the magnitude of the interests at stake, I considered it my duty to make preparations for

proceeding in person to the scene of disturbance, to superintend and direct the operations which might be necessary, and as there was no man-of-war in port or English steamer, I chartered the "Caravelle," one of the French line of packet ships, which fortunately happened to be in port, and was most considerably placed at my service by Captain Burat.

16. About half-an-hour after midnight I got away with my Aide-de-Camp, Colonel Hunt, and drove over to Spanish Town. Here I had the Governor's Secretary and his clerk at once called up, and the requisite proclamations for establishing martial law prepared. By half-past six a.m. on Friday, the 13th, I had completed my arrangements, and returned to Kingston by 8 a.m., where I met the Council of War, and, with their concurrence, at once declared the County of Surry, excepting Kingston, to be under martial law.

17. Having requested the General to send an officer to accompany me to take command of the troops, he named Colonel Nelson, the Adjutant-General, upon whom I at once conferred the local rank of Brigadier-General in the militia in order to give him seniority over all other officers of militia or volunteers who might be present. A detachment of 50 additional troops was at once put on board the "Caravelle," and I also invited to accompany me a member of Council, Mr A. Fyfe, two members of Assembly, Mr Peter Espent and Mr Andrew Lewis, The Attorney-General and a Mr Henry Hutchings, all in their capacities as officers of militia and volunteers.

18. By 10 a.m. we embarked. Whilst proceeding down the harbour we met H.M.S. "Wolverine" from the scene of action, bringing up the ladies, gentlemen, and children, who had escaped, and some few prisoners who had been captured.

19. The accompanying report was also received from the senior naval officer, conveying an account of the sad scene which had presented itself on the arrival of the "Wolverine" at 9 a.m., on Thursday morning (12th October).

The shocking tale was still more harrowing as related by those who had escaped, and some of whom appear to have got away in a most wonderful and almost miraculous manner. No less than sixteen gentlemen were known to have been killed and eighteen others wounded.

The most frightful atrocities were perpetrated. The Island Curate of Bath, the Rev. V. Herschell, is said to have had his tongue cut out whilst still alive, and an attempt is said to have been made to skin him. One person (Mr Charles Price, a black gentleman, formerly a member of Assembly) was ripped open, and his entrails taken out. One gentleman (Lieutenant Hall, of the Volunteers) is said to have been pushed into an outbuilding, which was then set on fire, and kept there until he was literally roasted alive. Many are said to have had their eyes scooped out; heads were cleft open, and the brains taken out. The Baron's fingers were cut off and carried away as trophies by the murderers. Some bodies were half burnt, others horribly battered. Indeed, the whole outrage could only be paralleled by the atrocities of the Indian mutiny. The women, as usual on such occasions, were even more brutal and barbarous than the men. The only redeeming trait being that, so far as we could learn, no ladies or children had as yet been injured.