

seventh, eighth, and eighteenth years of His present Majesty's reign, for repairing and widening the roads from Oxford, over Botley-Causeway, to Fifield, in the county of Berks, and Witney, in the county of Oxford; and for more effectually repairing and amending the road from and out of the Witney-Road, at the village of Botley, into the said road at or near Swinford-Bridge.

And four private Acts.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, July 3, 1814.

DISPATCES, of which the following are a Copy and Extract, have been this day received by Earl Bathurst from Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bart.

Head-quarters, L'Acadie, 31st
March 1814.

MY LORD,

I HAD scarcely closed the session of the Provincial Legislature, when information arrived, of the enemy having concentrated a considerable force at Plattsburg, for the invasion of Lower Canada.

Major-General Wilkinson advanced on the 19th instant to Chazy, and detached Brigadier-General M'Comb with a corps of riflemen and a brigade of infantry in sleighs, across the ice to Isle La Mothe, and from thence to Swanton, in the State of Vermont.

On the 22d this corps crossed the line of separation between the United States and Lower Canada, and took possession of Philipsburg, in the seigniory of St. Armand, and on the 23d several guns followed, and a judicious position was selected and occupied, with demonstrations of an intention to establish themselves there in force.

Having previously assembled, at St. John's and in its vicinity, the 13th, 49th regiments, and the Canadian voltigeurs, with a sufficient field train, and one troop of the 19th Light Dragoons, I placed the whole under the command of Colonel Sir Sidney Beckwith, and ordered him to advance to dislodge the enemy, should circumstances not disclose this movement to be a feint made to cover other operations. On this I left Quebec. On my route I received a report from Major-General De Rottenburg, of the enemy having retired precipitately from Philipsburg on the 26th, and again crossed Lake Champlain, for the purpose of joining the main body of the American army near Champlain Town.

On the 30th the enemy's light troops entered Odell Town, followed by three brigades of infantry, commanded by Brigadier-Generals Smith, Bissett, and M'Comb, and composed of the 4th, 6th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 23d, 25th, 29th, 30th, and 34th regiments, a squadron of cavalry, and one eighteen, three twelve, and four six pounders, drove in our piquets on the road leading from Odell Town to Burton Ville, and commenced an attack on the latter position, but were so well received by the light troops, supported by the grenadiers of the Canadian Fencibles, that it was not persevered in, and the brigades in advance were directed upon the post at La Cole, entrusted to Major Hancock, of the

13th regiment, whose able conduct on this occasion your Lordship will find detailed in the accompanying report from Lieutenant-Colonel Williams, of the 13th, who had the charge of the advanced posts on the Richelieu.

In consequence of the sudden rise of water in every direction, from the melting of the snow and ice, it was with extreme difficulty the enemy withdrew their cannon, and it is now almost impossible for either party to make a movement.

The troops brought forward to support those at Burton-Ville and the mill at La Cole, were obliged to wade through mud and water up to their waists, for many miles, before they could attain the points they were directed to occupy. The Indian warriors alone were able to hang on the enemy's rear, whilst retreating to Champlain Town.

I have ascertained the loss of the American army to have exceeded three hundred men in killed and wounded: it is also stated, many of their officers suffered on this occasion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

La Cole, March 31, 1814.

I BEG leave to acquaint you, that I have just received from Major Hancock, of the 13th regiment, commanding at the block-house on La Cole River, a report, stating that the out-posts on the roads from Burton Ville and La Cole Mill, leading from Odell Town, were attacked at an early hour yesterday morning by the enemy in great force, collected from Plattsburg and Burlington, under the command of Major-General Wilkinson. The attack on the Burton Ville Road was soon over, when the enemy shewed themselves on the road from the mill, that leads direct to Odell Town, where they drove in a piquet stationed in advance of La Cole, about a mile and a half distant; and soon after the enemy established a battery of three guns (twelve-pounders) in the wood. With this artillery they began to fire on the mill, when Major Hancock, hearing of the arrival of the flank companies of the 13th regiment at the block-house, ordered an attack on the guns, which, however, was not successful, from the wood being so thick and so filled with men. Soon after, another opportunity presented itself, when the Canadian grenadier company and a company of the voltigeurs attempted the guns; but the very great superiority of the enemy's numbers, hid in the woods, prevented their taking them.

I have to regret the loss of many brave and good soldiers in these two attacks, and am particularly sorry to lose the services, for a short time, of Captain Ellard, of the 13th regiment, from being wounded while gallantly leading his company.—The enemy withdrew their artillery towards night-fall, and retired towards morning from the mill, taking the road to Odell Town.

Major Hancock speaks in high terms of obligation to Captain Ritter, of the Frontier Light Infantry, who, from his knowledge of the country, was of great benefit. The marine detachment, under Lieutenants Caldwell and Barton, the Cana-