

difficulty in their advance, owing to the ruggedness of the ploughed fields, the depth of snow, and the strong fences they had to break through, they exerted themselves for this purpose with the greatest energy; and, having taken possession of the roads and bridges, succeeded in taking a number of prisoners, who were running in great confusion from the town. My object being here accomplished, I left detachments of the 83d to secure these places, and pushed in advance with the whole of the 32d regiment towards the church, and occupied houses close to it on that side of the town. After remaining there some time, firing on the rebels in the church, I found myself obliged to withdraw from that advanced situation, as the regiment was then unavoidably exposed to the fire of our own artillery from the opposite side of the town, as well as that of the rebels, but detached the grenadiers, 1st and 2d companies, to favourable positions, to intercept any of the rebels attempting to escape from the church; and which answered effectually, as, upon the taking of that building, a number of the rebels fell under the fire of part of these companies. On an attack like this, upon a town, much remains with the individual superintendance of commanding officers of battalions, and, about this time, the 83d regiment were, by your Excellency's orders, directed to enter the town in another direction, in support of the 2d battalion of the royal regiment; fortunately we experienced no loss, owing to the favourable cover afforded the troops by the number of houses in this neighbourhood; the 32d regiment had only one man severely wounded.

I beg leave to recommend to your notice Brevet Major Reid, who commanded the 32d regiment the greater part of the day, my time being necessarily occupied in command of the brigade. The soldiers conducted themselves with steadiness and coolness, and shewed great forbearance to the captured rebels. The church being soon taken, and the town in possession of the troops under your Excellency, and quartered there for that night, the brigade marched with the remainder of the division the following morning to St. Benoit, a distance of twelve miles from St. Eustache, and, meeting no opposition, entered the town, and remained there for that night. On the morning of the 16th, in obedience to your Excellency's orders, I marched to St. Scholastique, with two guns, under the command of Captain Howell, Royal Artillery, and the 32d regiment. On my approach to the town I was met by the inhabitants of it with white flags; they surrendered up to me their arms and ammunition. I remained in this village for the night, and marched the following morning to St. Therese, where I halted for the night of the 17th; at this place also a number of arms were surrendered to me by the inhabitants. In the course of the evening I received information that W. H. Scott, of St. Eustache, one of the rebel chiefs, was concealed in a farm-house about five miles from the village.

I immediately dispatched five of the cavalry who were attached to me in pursuit of him, and I am happy to say they succeeded in taking him prisoner.

The measure of your Excellency, in directing this force to march through this part of the country,

appeared to me to have the most beneficial effect in restoring good order and tranquillizing the minds of the people.

On the morning of the 18th I marched to St. Martin's, on my return to Montreal, where I arrived the following day, at one o'clock.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JOHN MAITLAND, Lieut.-Col. commanding 32d Regiment, Col. commanding 1st Brigade.

*His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. and G. C. H. Commanding the Forces, &c. &c. &c.*

SIR, *Montreal-barracks, Dec. 21, 1837.*

IN obedience to the orders of the Lieutenant-General commanding, I have the honour to report the progress of the brigade under my command—comprised as-per margin,\* in the operations against St. Eustache and St. Benoit.

The brigade assembled at St. Martin on the 13th instant.

On the following morning, the 14th, Globinsky's Volunteers were detached on the upper road to St. Eustache, the woods bordering on which were occupied by some picquets of the rebels, and which the volunteers drove in or dispersed.

The other troops of the brigade proceeded with the rest of the force by the La Rose-road, crossing the Ottawa on the ice, about three miles below the village of St. Eustache.

At about six or seven hundred yards from Saint Eustache the artillery were found in position, battering the church and adjoining houses.

I was here directed to follow the 1st Brigade, which was making a detour of the village, for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the rebels by the St. Benoit road; but on arriving opposite the centre of the village I was directed to enter it, which I did, and having advanced up the main street, occupying the most defensible houses, and meeting with no opposition, I reported the circumstance to the Lieutenant-General, who desired me to detach an officer to bring up the artillery; in executing this duty the officer was driven back by a fire from the church, and the artillery entered the village by the rear, and opened their fire on the church door, at the distance of 280 yards, while some companies of the Royal Regiment and the Rifles occupied the houses nearest to the church; after about an hour's firing, and the church doors remaining unforced, a party of the Royal Regiment assaulted the Presbytery, killed some of its defenders, and set it on fire.

The smoke soon enveloped the church, and the remainder of the battalion advanced; a straggling fire opened upon them from the Seigneur's house, forming one face of the square, in which the church stood, and I directed the Grenadiers to carry it, which they did, killing several, taking many prisoners, and setting it on fire.

At the same time part of the battalion, led by Major Gagy, Provincial Assistant Quartermaster-General, and commanded by Major Warde, entered the church by the rear, and drove out and slew its

\* 2d Battalion the Royal Montreal Rifles, Globinsky's Volunteers.