

Sir J. Colborne & J. Fitzroy Somerset
Montreal - 22nd Dec. 1895

23. Albany - Burlington Garden
London - 27th June - 1895

Sir - I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 12th June asking for any letters etc from Sir John Colborne (Lord Seaton) referring to his Expedition to St. Sulpice and in reply I beg to forward the enclosed copy of a letter to Lord Fitzroy Somerset (Horse Guards) reporting the march on & capture of that place.

With regard to the "burning" referred to that took place on the occasion - it was as Sir John Colborne observed - impossible to prevent it altogether - but having been present at the time, I know that all measures were taken to restrict unnecessary destruction of Houses as much as possible. I regret that I have no portrait of Sir John Colborne at hand that I can send to you - but I will endeavour to obtain one - I am

Yours Obedient Servant
James Colborne junr

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In General Sir John Colborne Kt. Command^g Forces and
acting Governor General - to His General Lord Fitzroy Somerset
House Guards - respecting the Capture of St. Suckache occupied
by the Rebels in 1837 - 38

Head Quarters - Montreal

22^d December 1837

My Lord,

With reference to my dispatches
of the 13th & 15th Instant - I have the honour
to transmit to you for the further information
of the General Command^g in Chief the details
of the late movement of the Troops acting against
the Rebels in this district - The habitants
in arms between the Yamaska and Richelieu
having dispersed after the desertion of their
leaders - Volfrid Whelton - de Rivieres and
Brown - I directed Major Reid of the 32^d
Regt. to proceed to St. John's with part of the
force which had returned to St. Charles from
St. Hyacinthe and unite with the Companies
under Lt. Colonel Hughes assembled at that
point for the purpose of attacking the
Acadians - who had a second time taken
the field and had crossed the Richelieu &
joined the insurgents under Bouchette at
Swanton in the United States Territory -

Fortunately however the loyal population

In General
The R. Hon. Lord Fitzroy Somerset
House Guards

of Missisquoi and the Shefford Volunteers
 routed the party before it had penetrated a
 mile into the Township of St. Armand -

This vigilance of the Missisquoi Militia
 enabled me to withdraw several Companies
 from St. John's and to make arrangements
 for entering the Country of the Lake of the
 Two Mountains the stronghold of the
 Rebels of Grand Boule & Riviere au Chene

I had received information that the
 Insurgents in that Section of the Country
 had assembled in greater force and were
 more fully prepared for resistance than in
 any other part of the District of Montreal -

They had driven from their homes every
 loyal Subject and pillaging an extensive
 tract they provided for the reinforcements
 that joined them from Vaudreuil Timbora
 and the neighbouring Counties -

Girod (a foreigner) Chénier-Gerouard
 and Demouchelle - the most able and active
 leaders of the Revolt - had been for several
 weeks engaged in organizing the Insurgents
 and were in possession of all the resources
 of the County - St. Justache being the
 principal post I assembled the disposable
 force under my Command at St. Martin's
 on the 13th Inst. - and directed Major Townshend
 to march on the following day - from Carillon
 with the detachments of the 24th Regiment
 and

and the Volunteers of St. Andrews towards St. Benoit - On the 14th I crossed the north branch of the Ottawa three miles below St. Gustache with two Brigades and six field-pieces and the Montreal Volunteer Cavalry and Rifle Corps - While Captain Gobenok's company of Volunteers attracted the attention of the Rebels by marching a more direct route - As the force which had passed the River approached St. Gustache - Colonel Maitland's Brigade consisting of the 32^d and 33^d Regts & the Cavalry moved in front of the Town & towards ^{the} St. Benoit Road - followed by the 2^d Brigade commanded by St. Colonel Wetheral and entered it at several points - Major Jackson Command^g the R^g Artillery with the battery under his Charge opened a fire on the Church and the houses occupied by the Rebels - Gird & many of the Rebels from St. Scholastique abandoned the defence of the houses & walls which they had previously occupied - on the approach of the Troops - but the more determined of the Rebels from St. Benoit under Chevier continued firing from the Church and adjoining houses - till they were driven from them by the fire of the field pieces placed in front of the Church by Major Jackson - and the advanced parties of the Royal & 32^d Regt. & Rifle Corps which had been posted under cover of the unoccupied houses - The Reports of the Officers Commanding Brigades are annexed

for the information of the General Command
in Chief - The Troops left St. Susteche early on
the 15th and on the march to St. Benoit were met
by delegates from the Rebels authorized to acquaint
me that they were prepared to lay down their Arms
unconditionally - on our arrival at St. Benoit
it was ascertained that all the Rebel leaders
had abandoned their deluded followers -

I directed Colonel Maitland to proceed to St.
Scholastique with the 32^d Regiment & two field-
pieces and the remainder of the Troops to march
by St. Susteche to Montreal - The good results
of these Movements have been proved by the
return of the peasantry to their usual occupations
and by the disappearance of Armed parties of
the Rebels - It is scarcely possible to suppose
that the loyal & peaceable Subjects whose property
had been pillaged and who had so recently suffered
from the outrages committed by the Rebels of Grand
Boulié and the Rivière du Chêne - a population
of the worst character - could be prevented - on being
liberated from their oppressors from committing
some acts of retaliation at St. Benoit mentioned
in the reports of Colonel Maitland & Major Townshend -

In adverting to the delusion which has
prevailed in respect to the character of the rural
population of Lower Canada and to the extraordinary
fact that a people enjoying under a mild Government
benefits & advantages that were highly appreciated by
them had been prepared & ostensibly organized for
a general

a general revolt and to blindly enter into the schemes of the factious individuals by whom they have been duped without the knowledge of the local Government - a doubt being entertained as to their loyalty or intentions - I consider it incumbent on me to observe that the Executive Government has been for many years excluded and cut off from all communication with the habitants of every district - they bring in the harvests and under the control of Avocats - Notaires and persons of the Medical profession residing among them have been corrupted by them acting under the direction of M. Papineau and his faction and an unrestrained & seditious Press. I have no hesitation in conveying this expression of my opinion to Her Majesty's Government - lest too much reliance should be placed on the promises and addresses of a most ignorant peasantry that have been for many years under the control of the ambitious and unprincipled individuals to whom I have alluded - The several Departments under my orders have at this critical period by their great exertions enabled me to assemble the Troops promptly - a large outlay has been necessarily authorized by me to provide accommodation for the Troops and in arming more than 9000 Volunteers organized in Montreal and among the British frontier population - I have to assure the General,

Commd^g

Command^{rs} in Chief that from the time the Rebels appeared in position - no opportunity has been lost in attacking them constantly as soon as a sufficient force could be collected to march against them without exposing or leaving unprotected the important Stations of Montreal - Chambly - St. John's & Sorel -

I had received on every occasion a zealous assistance from the De^{ty} Ad^{tl} General Lt. Colonel Eden & the De^{ty} Q^r Master General Colonel Gore & the Officers of my personal Staff and from Captain Foster R^g Engineer and Majors Jackson & Maclean of the R^g Artillery and the respective Officers of the Ordnance Dept.

The Commissary General has by his able arrangements greatly facilitated the movement of Troops in this District & of the Reinforcements on the March from New Brunswick -

Many offers were made at the Commencement of the Revolt by the Colonels of the Militia of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Upper~~ ^{the} Province to march to my assistance and I beg to forward to you the accompanying copies of a correspondence wh^{ch} has taken place on that Subject -

On my return from the Country of the Lake of the Two Mountains - I ordered part of the 24th Reg^t to proceed in Sleighs to Kingston & Toronto - I find however from my Reports from Toronto that the loyal Upper Canadians are

7

fully prepared to defend their institutions and
to ensure the preservation of the public peace
without the aid of Her Majesty's Troops.

I cannot close this despatch without mentioning
that all the Corps of Volunteers of Montreal have
occasionally taken the duties of the Garrison &
thus enabled me to leave the Town under their
protection - From the Reports & Communications
from every district order has been restored and
no excitement exists except beyond the Frontier
among the lower part of the population of the United
States - I have &c -
Signed J. Colborne -

(Schedule of Letters enclosed accompanying
this despatch - Return of Killed & Wounded
Return of Force Employed against St. Sautache
& Correspondence between Genl John Colborne
Genl Francis Head - Colonel Maitland and
Major Townsend)

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~~473~~ Montreal
22^o Decemr 1837

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Administration for Genl. Smith
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Reporting Genl. D. W.
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Taking of St. Louis

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