

lonel Fischer, of the regiment De Watteville,) marched at four o'clock yesterday afternoon, in order to gain the vicinity of the point of attack in sufficient time.

It is with the deepest regret I have to report the failure of both attacks, which were made two hours before daylight this morning. A copy of Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's report, herewith enclosed, will enable your Excellency to form a tolerably correct judgment of the cause of the failure of that attack; had the head of the column (which had entered the place without difficulty or opposition), been supported, the enemy must have fled from his works, (which were all taken, as was contemplated in the instructions, in reverse,) or have surrendered.

The attack on the fort and entrenchments leading from it to the Lake, was made at the same moment by two columns, one under Lieutenant-Colonel Drummond, 104th regiment, consisting of the flank companies 41st and 104th regiments, and a body of seamen and marines, under Captain Dobbs, of the royal navy, on the fort; the other under Colonel Scott, 103d, consisting of the 103d regiment, supported by two companies of the Royals, was destined to attack the entrenchments. These columns advanced to the attack, as soon as the firing upon Colonel Fischer's column was heard, and succeeded, after a desperate resistance, in making a lodgment in the fort through the embrasures of the demi bastion, the guns of which they had actually turned against the enemy, who still maintained the Stone Building, when most unfortunately some ammunition, which had been placed under the platform, caught fire from the firing of the guns to the rear, and a most tremendous explosion followed, by which almost all the troops which had entered the place were dreadfully mangled. Panic was instantly communicated to the troops (who could not be persuaded that the explosion was accidental), and the enemy, at the same time, pressing forward, and commencing a heavy fire of musquetry, the fort was abandoned, and our troops retreated towards the battery. I immediately pushed out the 1st Battalion Royals, to support and cover the retreat, a service which that valuable corps, executed with great steadiness.

Our loss has been very severe in killed and wounded: and I am sorry to add that almost all those returned "missing," may be considered as wounded or killed by the explosion, and left in the hands of the enemy.

The failure of these most important attacks has been occasioned by circumstances which may be considered as almost justifying the momentary panic which they produced, and which introduced a degree of confusion into the columns which, in the darkness of the night, the utmost exertions of the officers were ineffectual in removing.

The officers appear invariably to have behaved with the most perfect coolness and bravery; nor could any thing exceed the steadiness and order with which the advance of Lieutenant Colonel Fischer's brigade was made, until emerging from thick wood, it found itself suddenly stopped by a abattis, and within a heavy fire of musquetry and guns from behind a formidable entrenchment

With regard to the centre and left columns, under Colonel Scott, and Lieutenant Colonel Drummond, the persevering gallantry of both officers and men, until the unfortunate explosion, could not be surpassed. Colonel Scott 103d, and Lieutenant Colonel Drummond, 104th regiments, who commanded the centre and left attacks, were unfortunately killed, and your Excellency will perceive that almost every officer of those columns was either killed or wounded by the enemy's fire, or by the explosion.

My thanks are due to the under mentioned officers, viz. to Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer who commanded the right attack; to Major Coore, Aide-de-Camp to your Excellency, who accompanied that column; Major Evans, of the King's, commanding the advance, Major Villatte, De Watteville's, Captain Bastien, light company 89th, Lieutenant Murrey, light company 100th: I also beg to add the name of Captain Powell, of the Glengarry light infantry, employed on the staff as deputy assistant in the quarter-master-general's department, who conducted Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's column, and first entered the enemy's entrenchments, and by his coolness and gallantry particularly distinguished himself; Major Villatte, of De Watteville's regiment who led the column of attack and entered the entrenchments; as did Lieutenant Young, of the King's regiment, with about fifty men of the light companies of the King's and De Watteville's regiments; Captain Powell reports that Serjeant Powell, of the 19th dragoons, who was perfectly acquainted with the ground, volunteered to act as guide, and preceded the leading subdivision in the most intrepid style. In the centre and left columns, the exertions of Major Smelt 103d regiment who succeeded to the command of the left column, on the death of Colonel Scott; Captains Leonard and Shore of the 104th flank companies; Captains Glew, Bullock and O'Keefe, 41st flank companies; Captain Dobbs royal navy, commanding a party of volunteer seamen and marines, are entitled to my acknowledgements, (they are all wounded). Nor can I omit mentioning, in the strongest terms of approbation, the active, zealous, and useful exertions of Captain Eliot of the 103d regiment, deputy-assistant quarter-master-general, who was unfortunately wounded and taken prisoner; and Captain Barney of the 89th regiment, who had volunteered his services as a temporary assistant in the engineer department, conducted the centre column to the attack, in which he received two dangerous wounds.

To Major Phillot, commanding royal artillery, and Captain Sabine, who commanded the battery as well as the field guns, and to the officers and men of that valuable branch of the service, serving under them, I am to express my entire approbation of their skill and exertions. Lieutenant Charlton, royal artillery, entered the fort with the centre column, fired several rounds upon the enemy from his own guns, and was wounded by the explosion. The ability and exertions of Lieutenant Philpot, royal engineers, and the officers and men of that department, claim my best acknowledgments.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker, who commanded the reserve, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, Inspecting Field-Officer, and Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, Glengarry light infantry, and Captain Walker, incorporated militia, I am greatly indebted