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## THE LATE MAJOR LE CARON.

One of the most remarkable men of modern times died in London on Sunday last—Thomas William Beach, or, to give him the name by which he was best known, Major Le Caron, perhaps the most daring spy that ever lived. Major Le Caron was a native of Colchester, his father being a rate-collector of that town. After the beginning of the Civil War in America he left Paris, whither he had gone at the age of nineteen, and entered the United States army as a private. Here he took the name of Henri Le Caron, and his conduct during the many hard-fought fights in which he took part won for him the rank of major. The year before the termination of the great struggle between North and South Major Le Caron made the acquaintance of one Captain, afterwards General, O'Neil, who, when the war was over, spoke to him about a projected invasion of Canada. He joined the Fenian organisation, and in 1868 became "military

Senior Guardian of "Camp 463" in the State of Illinois. A skirmishing fund was established, with Breslin, Devoy, Carrol, Reynolds, O'Donovan Rossa, Austin Ford, Luby, and T. F. Burke as trustees, the fund being devoted to striking at the British enemy when and where opportunity presented itself. All their plots, however, were frustrated through Le Caron. Twenty-five years in all were spent by him as a spy—a perilous ordeal, through which he passed with wonderful pluck and success. His evidence before the Special Commission was the sensation of the inquiry, and will long be remembered for its astounding revelations of the inner workings of the Fenians.



Major Le Caron., (Sketched from Life during the Parnell Commission.)

organiser" of that body, being commissioned with the rank of major in the Irish Republican Army. He made the bulk of the arrangements in 1869 for the Fenian raid, or, to use its alternative name, the Riel rebellion in Canada in 1870. He entered the Fenian body for the express purpose of betraying it to the British Government, the arrangements with which were made by his father through one of the then members for his native place. Le Caron accepted a commission from the Home Secretary to procure and supply further information. His motive, as he states in his book, was purely patriotic, the payment received from the Government leing for several years together less than the expenses to which he was put in his work as secret informer. He claims to have been the means by which the Canadian rebellion ended in a dismal fiasco. The successive Governments, too, were kept in knowledge of the schemes and plots of the Irish Brotherhoods and Clans. The Major became



