

## Original.

## HISTORY OF LOWER CANADA.

(CONCLUDED.)

The attention of our readers is now directed to the movements of the patriots at Napierville. Soon after the departure of Col. Gagnon and his little band on the 6th, Col. Remy Narbonne of St. Edouard and Maj. Medard Hebert together with Capt. Dugas, arrived at Napierville with a large body of men well armed and equip. They brought with them a considerable quantity of provision and a few prisoners whom they had taken. But many of the men who came from the North and West, became dissatisfied and returned to their homes, while those in Napierville were disheartened by the failure of the people of Laprairie and Chateaugay, to do what they had faithfully promised. The dissatisfaction soon became general and evident signs of discontent were openly manifested. The camp at Napierville soon dwindled down, from 1200 to 510, many of whom were unarmed. It is to be regretted that the Canadians allowed themselves to be so easily discouraged; a people that embark in such a hazardous cause as is that of rebellion against a powerful and well organized government, ought to expect that defeat and disgrace might at first be their destiny,—and that perseverance alone would ensure their triumph. The Americans lost most of the battles between them and the Mother country in their struggle for freedom in the commencement—they were not disheartened but profited by the experience afforded by each new engagement and victory at last perched upon the standard of liberty. Had the Canadians continued the struggle and annoyed their oppressors by every means in their power, we doubt not they would have succeeded. We regret that it was not so; had those who crossed the Provincial line and proffered their services in behalf of their oppressed countrymen, faithfully performed what they pledged themselves to do, we believe that the Canada would now be free and independent. But alas! very few indeed, know how shamefully those, who consented to take the lead in that important expedition, were deceived, and were we permitted to unveil the true picture of the whole affair, our readers would shudder at the recital of so many solemn pledges broken—so much rascality practised by men in whom we had been taught to place unlimited confidence.

Let us now return to the main body of the Canadian army under the Commander in chief, which we left at Napierville. Having heard many flying reports about the battle of the 7th, it was decided to leave a small guard at Napierville to keep the prisoners, while the whole force was to move South upon the loyalists of Odelltown and Hemingsford who had united and fought against the patriots at the line. Accordingly on the 8th, they began to move in solid columns towards Lacole where they arrived on the afternoon of the same day. From this place, the commander in chief, Dr. Robert Nelson, accompanied by one of his officers, went to examine an out-post and to ascertain the position of the enemy. When they arrived at the post, which was but a few miles distant from the main army, by the order of capt. Heffernan, an Irishman, they were seized as prisoners of war, the vile traitor Heffernan declaring that Dr. Nelson, should be immediately shot or delivered up to the British, telling his men that Dr. Nelson was a traitor to his country and was then fleeing to the United States. A cocked pistol was put to the Doctor's breast by this villain who threatened him with instant death if he attempted to speak and thereby prevented an explanation between his men and the prisoners for Heffernan well knew that if Dr. Nelson was allowed to speak, his men would discover his foul plot. A messenger was despatched to inform the Tories of Nelson's arrest. In this perilous situation Divine Providence interposed for his rescue. The messenger had been despatched some time—the British were expected every moment, when Dr. Nelson ventured to speak to his guards in remonstrance against their harsh and unjustifiable treatment, telling them the true situation of the patriot affairs, that the main body of the Canadian army was only a few miles South East of them and that he would willingly be shot if they would only

accompany him to head Quarters provided they should not find things as he represented. This remonstrance had its desired effect, and the Canadians determined to know who was the impostor. Doctor Nelson and the two officers who had been bound with him, were put into a cart and a strong guard placed over them and in spite of the opposition of the treacherous Heffernan, the teams started for Lacole. They had not however proceeded far before they were met by Captain Tredeau of the patriot army who had been despatched in search of Dr. Nelson, by Brigadier Gen. Hindenlang who had become alarmed for his safety. The scene was now changed. These true patriots were immediately unbound and capt. Heffernan and several others of the most notorious characters, took their place. These prisoners were taken to the patriot camp, where instead of inflicting upon the vile wretch who had arrested, and even plotted the death of the Leader, that punishment which he so richly merited, he was allowed to escape. This culpable neglect to punish this vile traitor evinced either a want of fidelity to the representative head of their rising government, or an utter ignorance of military discipline. The consequence of this management was, the person of the commander in chief was no longer safe among men that would allow such an offence to go unpunished. Dr. Nelson was perfectly justifiable therefore in doing as he did at the battle of Odelltown. It is not the duty of a commanding General to lead his men into action when he could not rely upon the personal attachment of his men—such was the case of Dr. Nelson. He had been earnestly solicited to take the lead, after Mr. Papineau had openly abandoned the patriot cause. After much hesitation he at length yielded to the wishes of his countrymen; he had periled his life in the cause of his country, yet the vile wretch who had sought his life, was permitted to escape with impunity.

The next day after this shameful occurrence, the patriots were ordered to move on towards the South. The loyalists had posted themselves at the Odelltown stone Chapel. When the patriots approached the Chapel, the loyalists opened upon them a volley of grape-shot from the same gun which they took from the patriots the day previous at the Line, the patriots however pressed forward and by a close and well-directed fire of musketry (for they had no cannon) soon forced the loyalists to take refuge within the strong walls of the chapel. At this decisive juncture had the advice of the commander in chief been heeded, we have no doubts but that they would have been victorious. As the Tories had taken shelter in the chapel, Dr. Nelson proposed to drive the Tories out by setting fire to loads of hay and straw and pushing them against it to set it on fire. But this wise & salutary counsel was disregarded and the commander in chief saw with deep regret that his voice was unheeded he thought it was his duty to put himself beyond the reach of further machinations. When therefore he could be of no further benefit by remaining, he left for the States where we are happy to say he safely arrived.

After this signal defeat of the patriots who were driven from the field, instead of retreating across the line as they ought to have done, they retreated back into the country and were thus completely hemmed in on one side by the loyalist of the frontier, and on the other by the troops at Isle aux Naux and those sent from Montreal by Sir John Colborne, to put down the rebellion. Those patriots, who unfortunately retreated back to Napierville, soon found themselves in a critical situation. When the bloody old conqueror of St. Eustache approached Napierville, there was no other alternative for the patriots, but to retreat to the United States. However they were prevented from so doing by the loyalists of Odelltown and Hemingsford, together with the troops of Isle aux Naux and those which the infamous Captain Sherman of the American Steamboat, Burlington, voluntarily landed at Hoyle's wharf south of Isle aux Naux so as to completely surround the patriots; Their next resource was to make their escape through the woods to the Provincial line and in this attempt many of the worthiest patriots, were taken by the bloodhound volunteers who were posted on the lines to prevent their escape. Among those who were thus taken, was the gallant and hero-

ic Hindenlang, the magnanimous and noble hearted De Lorimier and the lamented DeCoigue, who all perished on the scaffold—Captain T. H. Moun and his noble son Achille who in making their way to the States fell into the hands of the fiendish Tories and are now British slaves in Van Dieman's land.

We shall not dwell long upon the pompous military display which Sir John Colborne at the head of his many thousand of disciplined soldiers, made on his march from Montreal to Napierville, suffice it to say that the old gony headed commander had not forgotten the scenes of St. Eustache and the parishes of L'Acadia, St. Cyprien and St. Valentine suffered greatly from the unwelcome visit of these monsters in human shape, who delighted in murder, burning, rape and plunder. To give an exact picture of the innumerable sufferings of the Canadian people in this critical juncture is a task above our abilities at the present time. Those who have perused the columns of this paper, have already had a faint idea of them. Thousands of people mostly composed of women and children chased from their homes at the beginning of a cold and pitiless winter, whilst their husbands and fathers were dragged to jail, there to be condemned to death by a mock trial, punished on the scaffold or to be sent into degrading slavery in Van Dieman's land; deprived of their homes which had been reduced to ashes by the torch of the assassins of their protectors; their chastity profaned by a brutal soldiery which did not even observe the most ordinary rules of vulgar decency, but forced children to witness their mother's or their sister's dishonor; such are the deeds which still cry to heaven for vengeance on their perpetrators.

We shall now say a few words about the movements of the patriots in the counties of Laprairie and Beauharnois. The people of Chateaugay under their brave leaders, the unfortunate Cardinal and Duquette, had according to their solemn pledges, risen on the appointed day and after having duly secured the most prominent Tories during the night of the 3d of November, thought it expedient to march forthwith on the Indian village, Caughnawaga, disarm the natives of that small place in whom they could place no confidence whatever. As it was Sunday morning they had made up their plans to enter the village just at the time that the Indians were at divine service, to surround them in the church and to disarm them. But unfortunately they arrived at the Indian village too early in the morning. The main body of the patriots was stationed in a bush near the village, whilst the brave and gallant Cardinal, Duquette, Lepailleur and a few the others were sent towards the village. The two first penetrated into the village, whilst Lepailleur and the others stood at a certain distance. To avoid all suspicion, those who went to the village, went unarmed. But an old squaw who happened to be near the bush, having discovered the gathering of the patriots, went back to the village and gave the alarm. Instantly Cardinal and Duquette were seized upon by the Indians who immediately bound them; and the brave Lepailleur who is now at Van Dieman's land, was also apprehended with several others who shared the fate of the two brave champions of liberty who had fallen into the hands of the treacherous Indians. Such was the hard fate of those engaged in the unfortunate expedition against the Indian village of Caughnawaga.

The expedition of Beauharnois was no less disastrous. The brave Chevalier De Lorimier, who had been at St. Scholastique, seeing that the martial ardor of the patriot leaders had been cooled by their incarceration during the previous winter, had crossed the St. Lawrence and united his fortune with the brave people of Beauharnois who were determined to fight for their independence. On the appointed day, a number of Tory prisoners, amongst whom was the nephew of Lord Durham, the son of the Right Honorable Edward Ellice, the Seigneur of the place and one of Canada's most bitter enemies, fell into the hands of the patriots, also a small steamer which plied between Lachine and the Cascades. The patriots and loyalists had a smart skirmish; but disaffection was sown in the patriot ranks by the infamous Brien who deserted the main body of the insurgents and in attempting to escape to the United States, fell into the hands of the

loyalists who brought him to Montreal and he was thrown into jail where he was kept until the following September, and from whence he was liberated by traitorously sacrificing the lives of many of his most intimate friends. We shall not stop to notice the partial movements which took place in the counties of Chambly, Richelieu and De Rouville. They are lasting monuments of disgrace to those who made the attempt, while the deepest stigma rests upon the head of a son of one of our most worthy and eminent patriots, who through falsehood and misrepresentation prevented the people of St. Charles and St. Denis, from joining the patriot standard.

We have now laid before our readers in a brief and impartial manner the history of the two rebellions in Lower Canada. We have repeatedly challenged contradiction—our paper has been in the hands of most of the prominent actors in this bloody drama,—yet no one has dared to come forward and contradict any of our statements. We can assure our readers that it has been painful for us to be obliged to ensure the conduct of certain men who, up to the rebellion of '37, had been held in high estimation by their countrymen. But it has afforded us much pleasure to record the noble deeds of those who, in the most trying and perilous moments, had so bravely fought to extricate their country from the critical situation into which it had been plunged by those cowards who in the hour of danger had shamefully abandoned their posts. We have justly and with pleasure, mentioned the gallant, heroic and persevering efforts of such worthy champions of freedom as Wolfred Nelson, Robert Nelson, and Wm. Lyo. Mackenzie, who through all the major tones of their country, have stood firm and unwavering, and even shouldered the musket to save it in the darkest hour of strife and blood. We wish that we could say as much of Messrs. Papineau, Bidwell, Rolph, D. B. Viger, L. M. Viger, Jacob Dewitt and scores of others who, either in exile or servilely bowing at the feet of Victoria's representative, cannot boast of having persevered to the end of the struggle for freedom. We regret that such is the case, yet our duty as historians has compelled us to tell the plain truth without fear or favor. Their conduct since the beginning of the rebellion of '37, has been pusillanimous and contemptible for men placed in the high and responsible situation which they filled. May they yet retrieve themselves from their past errors!

We shall now conclude by laying before our readers Mr. Van Buren's proclamation, issued after those gallant heroes of Prescott had fallen into the hands of the British. We shall forbear to make any lengthy comments upon this vile and contemptible document which could not disgrace its author because he had already sunk himself beneath the dignity of a freeman by his trucking time-serving devotedness to a foreign and despotic power. We will merely remark, that doubtless Mr. Van Buren thought that his faithful friend and ally, Sir. George Arthur, was in need of such a permission to hang and quarter those noble and generous hearted Americans who had fallen into his power. Our readers will find this proclamation on the third page, in the appendix, (w.w.) Let every true honest American, while perusing this document, blush that his country has ever been ruled by one who sustains the same relation to the destinies of this Republic, as Brien did to Canada and his countrymen.

We now take leave of our readers, craving their indulgence if we have trespassed upon their patience. Our only desire has been to give to our countrymen and the American people, a true and faithful History of Canada,—in this we are confident that we have completely succeeded. We now close the subject, hoping that the day will soon come, when this History will be openly and publicly read in Canada where it is treason to read it now.

(FINIS.)

## KOS AL DE MO.

The Grand Assembly of the Faithful will meet on the Holy Ground, on the 10th Kalend of the Magii.

Let the Faithful take heed!!  
By Order of the Kuti.

## NORTH AMERICAN:

SWANTON, AUGUST 12, 1841.

"PERSEVERE TO THE END."

## TO OUR PATRONS.

This number completes the second Volume of the North American and with it our Editorial labors cease, we shall therefore seize upon the present opportunity to take our formal leave of our Patrons and to express our feelings tearfully & pleadingly even though we should chance to offend many. Since we commenced the publication of this Paper our labors have been incessant and wearisome—we have toiled night and day, early and late, sick or well in season and out of season, to make our paper what it professed to be, a faithful expositor of Canadian affairs. How well we have succeeded in this, those who have perused our columns can judge. We have kept our readers apprised of what was passing in Canada during the continuance of our publication as well as to give a true and faithful narration of the past events which have transpired in that unhappy country—we have laid before them all that we deemed interesting in relation to foreign Nations and have faithfully chronicled whatever has transpired in this country that had any bearing upon the same object for which this paper was started. With the internal policy or domestic affairs of this country we have not deemed it expedient to meddle any further than they might be inseparably connected with the cause which we have been toiling to support. On all questions having any bearing upon the interests or welfare of our own country, we have not failed to speak our views, for fear of offending either political party. But on questions purely of a domestic nature and having a party bearing, we have refrained from expressing our opinions. And if on any occasion we have declared opinions that coincided better with the views and feelings of one party than with the other, it has been owing to the circumstances of the case rather than to any desire on our part to proclaim party views. It is true that we have entirely condemned the course of Mr. Van Buren in regard to his foreign policy, but we did it because we looked upon it as one of the primary causes of the failure of our countrymen to gain their Independence, as well as being derogatory to the honor & dignity of the American Republic. We did not—we could not, approve of his wretched cowardly subservency to British power or his zeal in aiding the oppressors of our countrymen. Against these, we have spoken boldly and undisguisedly our feelings regardless of party frowns or party favors. We have also condemned the unjust interference of the present Executive in the case of McLeod for we regard it as an act, unwarranted by the constitution, prompted by British feelings and done by British influence. In the case of the Caroline, we blamed Mr. Van Buren for his tardiness in demanding, and his remissness in obtaining redress. And we have censured Mr. Tyler for the same, as there is every reason to believe that he is equally disposed tamely to submit to British insolence and British outrage!! For the safety and perpetuity of the Republic, we hope the aspect of affairs will ere long change for the better.

During the publication of our paper, our receipts for subscriptions have not been twenty per cent of our expenses, yet we have toiled on until we have brought the Volume to a close. We have thus succeeded in the accomplishment of our object—The History of Canada has been completed—Those who have proved themselves the true friends of Canada, have received their merited meed of praise, while those who deserted her cause in the dark hour of trial, have been justly exposed to the world. We can truly say then, that we have fought the good fight we have finished our course—we have struggled against open foes and pretended friends, but we have struggled successfully for we have not yielded the contest but have manfully fought the battle through and won the victory, though our own vessel has gone down with our colors nailed to the mast, carrying with it the prize.

To those of our Patrons who have preferred themselves the genuine friends of the oppressed Canadians by forwarding their