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Note and Comment.

An interesting controversy has lately been provoked in consequence of a letter, written by an anonymous correspondent, "L.A.M.L.," in the columns of a contemporary. That writer called attention to a statement in a publication of some thirty or forty years ago in which it was alleged that then, in his time, hung in the R. C. Cathedral at Quebec certain old regimental colors bearing the inscription "Carillon" and "Chateauguay." The writer of forty years since implied that he was a survivor of the war of 1812 and seemed at home in his subject. But it seems that the oldest inhabitant in Quebec remembers nothing of colors in the Basilica.

The well known antiquarian, Mr. Le Moine, replied to the letter in question, and, in the columns of L'Evenement, stated that he had heard of two Canadian militia

flags of 1812 that were in possession of the late Col. Gagy, one of which might be that of Chateauguay. Mr. Le Moine recalls the fact that there were at Chateauguay several independent bodies commanded by such brave men as Lieut.-Col. Macdonnell, and Captains De Bartzeh, Ferguson, Lamotte, J. B. Duchesnay, Juchereau Duchesnay and Daly, and doing justice to the memories of Lieutenants Pinguet, Schiller, Hebbin and Levesque, leaves to others the task of determining what flags they followed to victory. The letter of Mr. Le Moine elicited a communication from the Hon. Boucher de la Bruere, speaker of the Legislative Council, in which he informs Mr. Le Moine that he had never heard of such a flag being in possession of the de Saboury family.

Then, after referring to the Gagy flags, he says:

"What I can state is that I am the possessor of two flags of that period. After the war they came into the possession of my paternal grandfather, Rene Boucher de la Bruere, as the oldest officer of his regiment. The flags were a gift from the Princess Charlotte of England, who was Queen of the Belgians, and it is unnecessary to say, I guard them as heirlooms of price. I also keep as a souvenir the Chateauguay medal, bequeathed to me by my paternal grandfather, as well as his sword and scarlet uniform." The Hon. M. de la Bruere falls into a slight error in terming the Princess Charlotte of Wales Queen of the Belgians. She was the wife of Prince Leopold, who was afterwards King of the Belgians, but she was also the daughter of George the Fourth. Her early death carried grief into every circle in England, where her virtues made her the hope of those who dreaded the consequences of the life of her disreputable father. Had she lived she would have been Queen of England. What M. Boucher de la Bruere states

is confirmed by Mr. J. A. Macdonnell of Greenfield, in his sketches of the settlement of Glengarry; by Col. Coffin, in his "1812, the War and its Moral"; by Christie, in his History of Lower Canada; by Mr. Robert Sellar, and other historians. Captain Bruere's name is honorably mentioned by Sellar and Coffin. "On the 26th of March following," writes Mr. Macdonnell, "His Excellency issued a general order expressing approbation of the affair at Chateauguay and his peculiar pleasure in finding that His Majesty's Canadian subjects had at length had the opportunity of refuting, by their own brilliant exertion in defence of their country, the calumnious charge of disaffection and disloyalty, with which the enemy had prefaced his first invasion of the province." To Lieutenant-Colonel de Saboury in particular, and to all the officers and men under his command, the sense entertained by His Royal Highness of their meritorious and distinguished conduct is well known. The Commander of the Forces at the same time acquainted the militia with the determination of His Royal Highness to forward colors for the various battalions of embodied militia, feeling that they had evinced an ability and disposition to secure them from insult, which gave the best title to such a mark of distinction."

The theory is advanced that it may be to these colors the writer of forty years ago referred. But the statement that colors bearing the inscription "Carillon" and "Chateauguay" once hung in the Basilica at Quebec remains unconfirmed and uncontradicted. Though M. De la Bruere stated to the writer that he had learned that such never was the case. It may be noticed that Mr. Lemoine in his letter stated that Mr. D. R. McCord, Q.C. collectionneur emerite, told him he was the proud possessor of two of the Canadian Militia flags of 1812, one the property of the Hon. Mr. McGill. Mr. John (Greenfield) MacDonnell also possesses one of the colors of the famous Glengarry Regiment.