

converted Iroquois Indians by the Sulpitian fathers at a very early date. Beyond these sanguinary and horrible contests there is nothing bearing specially upon the subject of these remarks until the years 1775 to '76. From the commencement to the end of the American war of independence—the declaration of independence by our neighbors was, as you all know, made in 1776 and the preliminaries of peace signed in 1783-4. During this war we constantly find reference to the Canadian militia, particularly of their gallant conduct in

THE DEFENCE OF QUEBEC,

when in December, 1775, it was assaulted by the Americans under Gen Montgomery, during which attack he met his death, as anyone who has seen the placard on the rock at Quebec can testify to. The Americans set up scaling ladders, but the fire kept up by the Canadians was so deadly that the assailants, driven back, were fain to take shelter in the houses. Then an intrepid militiaman—named Charland—advanced amid a shower of bullets, seized the ladders and drew them inside the barricades. The Canadians were soon relieved, and the Americans were slowly driven off from Quebec and its environs, and eventually from the frontier of Canada, the struggle being continued, says Gagneau, the historian, rather between antagonistic militias than between the royalists and the troops of the Congress in the Canadian arena. When the Legislative chambers opened in Quebec in 1793, we find the Governor, Lord Dorchester, calling the attention of that body to the organization or reorganization of the militia. Two battalions were afterwards raised, and eventually disbanded, but apparently the force was maintained in some shape. We find frequent references to it, as, for example, of orders being sent to captains of militia to arrest all such persons as should endeavor to break the King's peace. If captains of the militia of the present day were permitted this amusement, there would be some lively times and broken heads occasionally. Then when trouble commenced to brew between Great Britain and the United States an unfounded rumor was set on foot that the mere appearance of the American flag amongst the Canadian militia would cause them to rise in a body and join the American Confederation. The Americans, who mooted this in order to put an end to European domination in all parts of this continent, eagerly propagated

the report through their numerous journals. Accordingly in the summer of 1807 a grand military demonstration was made, a fifth part of the colonial militia being called out and were ordered to be ready to march at the first signal. The balloting for men and their training afterwards was cheerfully and briskly carried on to a degree which belied the insinuations thrown out against the loyalty of the Canadians. All, however, was comparatively quiet until the

WAR BROKE OUT IN 1812.

And now I come to a sad event, one which we must all feel keenly, namely, the sudden death on Friday last of Colonel Dyde. To myself personally, and particularly in connection with this lecture, the occurrence is particularly distressing. From the moment he knew of my intention to deliver a lecture on the Canadian militia, he took the greatest interest in the matter, and placed at my disposal his reminiscences of the war of 1812. I shall not alter a word of what I had written before his death, but read to you now what I wrote then, and it is as follows:—

I am sure you will heartily agree with me when I tell you that I am going to give you what must be a treat to all of us, viz.: An account of the cause of this war, which occurred seventy-six years ago, and some of the principal incidents in it as far as Canada was affected, given to me personally and in writing only the other day by one, who, if not actually a partaker, was at all events an onlooker at that momentous time, and who is still erect, hale and hearty, at the great age of 89, Colonel Dyde, C.M.G., A.D.C. to the Queen, the father of the Canadian militia of to-day. On the 18th of June, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain. There was a deep feeling of animosity existing between the two nations owing to various causes. Great Britain was at war with France, and the sympathy of the United States was altogether in favor of the latter in granting facilities and protection to the cruisers of that nation in their harbors, and also in laying embargos on English shipping, resulting in non-intercourse with Great Britain in 1812. At this time, Great Britain having cleared the seas of the vessels of almost every nation, the United States had nearly all the carrying trade. On the other side Great Britain had asserted the right of search, that is the power to overhaul merchantmen on the high seas, and impress any British seamen