

PART I.

THE PREPARATION.

"I smell it; upon my life, it will do well."

HENRY IV., Part 1.

A MILITARY Excursion of the Montreal Rifle Companies having been some time in agitation, various places were spoken of, and suggested, without meeting general approbation, until Portland was fortunately thought of as being a desirable place to visit. The idea took immediately, and met with so much favor, that a Committee, consisting of Lt. Col. Wily, and Captains McPherson and Hill, were appointed to concert measures in relation thereto. The Lt. Colonel was requested to communicate with Mr. Rhynas of Portland, on the subject, and ascertain from him the feasibility of the project, and the state of public opinion when the matter should come to be mooted in that city.

About the middle of the month of July, the Lt. Colonel placed himself in communication with that gentleman, and in a few days received from him a reply couched in the most favorable terms, from which the following extract is quoted: "I found your letter on my return to this, and lost no time in calling on the leading military gentlemen, and some of the civilians, and found the wish to be *unanimous* that you should come down on your proposed trip, and you will be well received."

The next step was to communicate with the proper authorities in Canada and the United States, for the necessary permission to leave the one, and enter the other, as a military body. The Com-