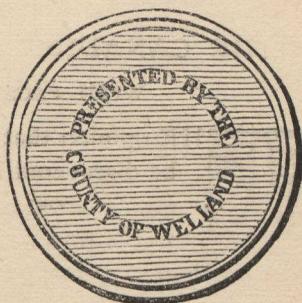
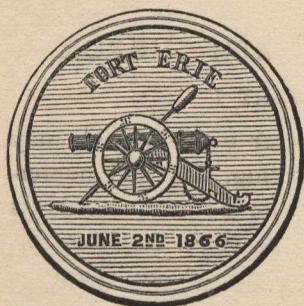


THE "FORT ERIE" MEDAL.



THE circumstances which led to the issue of this medal, are of such a nature as to render it difficult to express in words the indignation which must be felt by every Canadian, when he recalls the scenes of 1866. It is hard to realize that from a land with which we were at peace, there should be permitted to march such hordes of lawless ruffians as during that year invaded our country. Without noticing the circumstances which gave rise to the political organization, known as the "Fenian Brotherhood," or to the encouragement given them by the citizens of the United States, we may simply state that, unheeded, or, at least, unrestrained, they were permitted to arm, drill, and march, as an invading force, across our borders, and for a (very) brief season spread confusion among the peaceful farmers on the borders, and, unhappily, shed the



blood of a few of our noble young men who had gone forth to repel them. With unprincipled leaders, and demoralized men, it was but natural that the miserable attempt to free Ireland by sacking Canada, should fail, and that they found the whole country a unit in its defence. The principal scene of action in this, the "first invasion," was in the western part of our land; and the most disastrous to the lives of our volunteers, was the engagement at Ridgeway. The brave men who took part that day in their country's defence, will always