

their own. The regular meeting unanimously adopted the resolutions of the Quebec committee. These facts are now beyond dispute.

### THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

The Government organs, particularly the *Montreal Gazette* and the *Toronto Mail*, with a couple of correspondents to the *Quebec Telegraph* and the *Irish Canadian* (who hide their Orange tendencies under the assumed name of "True Irish Catholic," etc.), finding themselves unable to answer our articles on the basis of argument, turn to abuse and deny the Post the right to speak in the name of the Irish people of the Dominion. We don't mind the abuse, and as for the assertion that the Post does not voice the sentiments of the Irish-Canadian people, we leave the Irish-Canadian people to answer that themselves. We devote considerable of our editorial space to-day to a few expressions of high commendation and encouragement from all parts of the country, regarding the honesty, the fearlessness and the independence of the course pursued by the Post on public questions, and particularly in the present political movement. The value of these endorsements lies in the fact that they are entirely spontaneous on the part of the people, and that they were not solicited to bolster up our position. They were not intended for publication, but simply came as accompaniments with business orders for fresh or renewed subscriptions to the paper. This fact also goes to further emphasize the sincerity and the significance of these expressions of approval. It will be noticed that the letters speak the views and sentiments of all classes of citizens, and from all parts of the Dominion:—

**Bravo to the Independence of "The Post."**  
OTTAWA, December 9, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Seeing that an autocrat Cabinet Minister had thought fit to stop your paper, thereby depriving the public of a most valuable and very great pleasure in adding my name to your subscription list. The Government rag, here, managed, but not owned, by Mr. Whitehead, contract broker, undertook to say that because you have sufficient courage to denounce "the judicial murder" and warn the ultra Tory Orange gang that they cannot with impunity carry out their savage and diabolical plans in this country as they have done in the "Dear Old Land," that, indeed, "your friends in Ottawa were much annoyed." I want to see your friends stand by you, and show the *Citizen* and *Mail* that the extent of their sympathy for the Irish is well known, and that their efforts to make this question a race and creed quarrel will prove an egregious failure.

Bravo to the noble, bold, fearless and independent spirit shown by the Post and London *Catholic Record*.

Yours, truly,  
JOHN KENNEDY,  
427 Nepean street.

**Send Along the Brave Paper.**  
OTTAWA, Dec. 9, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Please send us along your brave paper. Your plucky action is worthy of encouragement and support. Address:  
A. F. McINTYRE, Barrister at Law, Ottawa;  
P. J. Coffey, Grocer, Ottawa;  
MICHAEL O'LEARY, Contractor, Nicholas street, Ottawa.

**The Best of Canadian Papers.**  
WESTVILLE, Picton County, N.S.,  
Dec. 4th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Enclosed please find my subscription. Continue to send me the best of Canadian papers, the *True Witness*, and oblige,  
Yours, etc.,  
PATRICK MAHONY.

**Thirty-two Years a Subscriber.**  
DEAR SIR.—I see by the slip of paper on the wrapper of my *True Witness* that my subscription for the current year expires this month. Therefore, as it is close, I wish to renew the same, thus commencing my 32nd year as a subscriber thereof. Yours respectfully,  
Rev. J. S. O'CONNOR,  
Parish Priest of Perth, Ont.

**The Opposite of the Cabinet Minister's Wife**  
OTTAWA, Dec. 9th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Be good enough to send me your paper. The *Citizen* has declared that you have taken a mistaken course, but I think you have taken a wise one in poor Riel's behalf. It is the *Citizen* and the Conservative party who have lost ground and they will find it out too late.—Address:  
MRS. JOHN RYAN, P.O. Box 388.

**The Blackest Hatred.**  
AURORA, Ont., Dec. 1, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Allow me to congratulate you most sincerely on the firm and most emphatic manner in which the Post has denounced the perpetrators of so foul a deed as the execution of Louis Riel. I also sympathize with the Irish and French portion of the population of Quebec in the most unwarrantable act of violence which has been committed against them. But if you can do an act of the feeling of the fanatics towards us merely from what you read in the public press, how much more plainly are made to feel those who reside amongst them. I speak from experience, not from hearsay. Those who would outwardly profess to be your friends, let them speak with regard to Riel, and it is with the blackest hatred they will speak of him. But Riel is not the next man who has been sacrificed by the savage and bloodthirsty Orangemen. Hoping you will pardon my intrusion on your valuable time, I am, yours, devotedly,  
A SUBSCRIBER.

**May the Cause Never Fail.**  
EVANVILLE, November, 1885.

SIR.—We will do our best in the interests of your paper. We wish you success in the noble stand you have taken.  
May your Cause or Paper never fail,  
Bold champion of Inseparability.  
Yours in spirit,  
HOWARD & CO.

**May its Principles Prevail.**  
ORILLA, Ont., Dec. 1, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—I received copy of the Post. Rev. J. F. Lyne, of Midland, who was here yesterday, offered to become a subscriber. We both agreed that the Post should be sustained at the present juncture. Its spirit and tone have our hearty approval. You will please find two new subscriptions for one year. May the Post prosper and may its principles prevail.  
I am your obedient servant,  
R. A. CAMPBELL, Priest.

**A Noble Stand—Stick to It.**  
UTTERWOOD, Ont., Dec. 2, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Please find enclosed subscriptions for present year and for 1886.

P.S.—Permit me to endorse your noble stand in the "Riel question." I believe almost every right-minded man will agree with you. For a Government so firmly committed to political results and then hang or commit to an act unworthy of Canada. That the Metis have some grievances no sane man can deny. Then in the name of Heaven why not remedy them without torturing the poor struggling fellows into rebellion? The Indians had some grievances too. What about our Irish representatives? We will please find him, because he is committed to be an ornament to the Irish in Canada. Let him be a man in this crisis. The French and all honest men ought to unite and drive from office men so base and incapable. I would, of course, counsel moderation and endorse your good sense in resorting to nothing but constitutional agitation. Stick to

it and you are bound to win. Edward Blake is a man of justice and a libel. His speech on the Irish question ought not to be forgotten. Am sorry for Langens; he is a man of executive ability.

Yours, &c.,  
F. J. G.

**Spirit of Independence and Justice.**  
KINGSTON FALLS, P.Q., Dec. 2.

DEAR SIR.—Please find enclosed subscription for the Post. It is the spirit of independence and of justice which you have shown in the Riel question which has determined me to become a subscriber. Continue in the same path, holding with a firm hand, the proud standard of Catholicity, the nation's symbol of liberty and justice. God will bless your work, and every Canadian worthy of the name will be grateful to you. I wish you success and perseverance. Yours sincerely,  
G. E. CARON, Priest.

**Let There Be Union.**  
St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 6, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Last week I do not remember assembled here to attend the Forty Hours' Devotion. Naturally we discussed the Riel question and of justice which you have shown in the Riel question which has determined me to become a subscriber. Continue in the same path, holding with a firm hand, the proud standard of Catholicity, the nation's symbol of liberty and justice. God will bless your work, and every Canadian worthy of the name will be grateful to you. I wish you success and perseverance. Yours sincerely,  
G. E. CARON, Priest.

**One Canadian Paper.**  
DUNLAP, Iowa, Nov. 30, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—I am glad to see that one Canadian paper takes part against the murder of Louis Riel. Yours sincerely,  
WALTER KAVANAGH.

**Why He Renewed His Subscription.**  
MANTIC, Ont., Dec. 3, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Enclosed you will please find amount of subscription for another year. If you had taken any other course in the Riel question I would not have renewed my subscription. Yours truly,  
STEPHEN DOYLE.

**Once a Supporter of Sir John.**  
BATH, Dec. 4, 1885.

SIR.—Please send me five extra copies of last week's *True Witness*, and oblige a once supporter of John A., but now quite the opposite. EDMUND MCKENY.

**No More Banquets to Sir John.**  
HALLS CORNER, Co. W. ntwork, Ont.,  
November 30th, 1885.

SIR.—I must congratulate you on the manner in which Sir John A. Macdonald has returned you and the citizens of Montreal his thanks for the magnificent banquet tendered him about ten months ago on the 4th anniversary of his entry into public life. Being a constant reader of your paper, I saw an account of that great Pow-wow. It was a great demonstration for the Catholics of Montreal to give an Orange bummer; he was John A. then, and he is John A. now. The Hon. Edward Blake by giving one vote for the Orange bummer and all the Orange men to vote for him; but all honor to him he did not do it. I suppose you know John "Our Chieftain" voted for the Orange bill. Sir John hanged Riel to suit the Orange riffraff of this Province and now he has fled the country. I suppose "Our Chieftain" will be banqueting when he comes back.

JOHN MCGANN.

**Best Wishes for the Paper's Prosperity.**  
BROOME, P.Q., Dec. 9th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—Enclosed please find my subscription for 1886, which I send you with my best wishes for the prosperity of your valuable paper. Yours truly,  
JOHN COLLIER.

**Best Catholic Paper in Canada.**  
ST. DAVID DE L'ACHENIERE, P.Q., Dec. 8th, 1885.

SIR.—I enclose amount of my subscription to the weekly paper, *THE TRUE WITNESS*. I think that it is the best Catholic paper in Canada. I remain yours truly,  
REV. FATHER J. G. GODFREY.

**He Likes the Paper.**  
ROCK ISLAND, P.Q., Dec. 11th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—I have received your papers, and like them very much. I enclose subscription for *True Witness*. Yours respectfully,  
ELI BURNELL.

**The Preference of a Septuagenarian.**  
PALMERSTON, Ont., Dec. 3rd, 1885.

SIR.—I request you to forward my paper, as I understand the small box is dying away. I receive the *Montreal Herald*, *Kingston Chronicle* and the *News*, but I prefer yours. I consider it better than the others. From an old reader of 72 years of age.  
PHILIP P. SHERLIN.

**Cannot Well Live Without It.**  
DURHAM, P.Q., Nov. 30th, 1885.

SIR.—Enclosed you will find my subscription for another year. I cannot well live without the *True Witness*. I will take it as long as I can see to read. I could not be content without it. Yours truly,  
JOHN RONAYNE.

**FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.**  
To the Editor of the Post:

SIR.—Enclosed you will find the sum of \$1.50, being my subscription to *True Witness* for one year.

I am happy to congratulate you upon the fearless manner in which you conduct your paper. I feel confident in stating that the Post stands prominently amongst the foremost journals in Canada. The bold stand taken on the Riel affair is highly endorsed by the Irishmen of this community, and the trickery of Sir John A. Macdonald's Government is condemned by justice loving people, whilst your fidelity to "Faith and Fatherland" is highly appreciated by our generous hearted countrymen here, and I hope that you may receive such support from Irishmen as you unremittently deserve.

J. T. GARLAND,  
Fort Augustus, P.E.I., Dec. 8, 1885.

**THE PARLIAMENTARY FUND.**

The treasurer of the Montreal branch of the Irish National League, Mr. T. Buchanan, has received an acknowledgment from Rev. Dr. O'Reilly for the first instalment of one thousand dollars contributed to the Irish Parliamentary Fund. Dr. O'Reilly says it looks as if English Commissioners will allow the Irish members "breathing room" in the coming Parliament. There is always breathing room for those on top, and to-day, after a sharp, bitter struggle of six years, Mr. Parnell and his party are on top. The success which has attended the efforts of the Irish National Party is largely due to the aid received from America and Australia.

Owing to factious opposition set up in the Irish constituencies, the League at home has been compelled to spend enormous sums of money to return the Nationalist members, even where the so-called Loyalists had not a ghost of a chance. The League treasury has, in consequence, been severely taxed, and the Irish people abroad owe it to the Irish party to give it their financial support during the coming Parliament until the British House of Commons has granted self government to Ireland. Many of the Irishmen of Montreal have still to contribute their share towards this worthy and patriotic object. We hope they will not shirk their duty in this crisis, which may mark the era of Ireland's liberty.

**"THE ENGLISH MINORITY IN ABJECT SLAVERY TO THE MAJORITY."**

The *Victoria Warder*, the Tory organ in Lindsay, Ont., entertains some rather startling ideas of the relations which exist between the English speaking Canadians and the French Canadians of the Province of Quebec. To judge from the tone of that and other Tory Orange papers one would imagine that Ontario was a neighbor of Timbuctoo instead of Quebec, so little knowledge do its public writers display of our Provincial institutions, laws and customs. The ignorance or the malice, or both, of the *Victoria Warder* goes so far as to say that the English minority in Quebec are in abject slavery to the majority, who are in turn enslaved to intolerance, bigotry and superstition. The loyal citizens of Ontario are then asked if they are going to suffer their brethren of Quebec to continue in such a state? It is worth while quoting the *ipissima verba* of the *Victoria Warder*:—

The *Globe* and the *Post* boast that, in the rebellious meetings in Montreal and throughout Quebec, there was no breach of the peace. True—but is not a mad dog orderly so long as he is left alone. The Protestants there know a trick worth two of opposing a Quebec mob. They have not forgotten how thousands of those heroes boldly attacked a delicate young man named Hackett, a few years since, and made mince meat of him. They attack one or two defenceless fellows whenever found, but skulk off when opposed by even half their numbers. The people of Ontario may as well awaken themselves to the fact that the great mass of Quebec's citizens are enslaved, the greater portion to intolerance, bigotry and superstition; and the minority, the English part, in abject slavery to the majority. Shall the loyal citizens of Ontario suffer their brethren, fellow mortals in Quebec, to continue in such a state? Or shall we ever have a more fitting occasion than the present to wipe out the religious and race prejudices?

The *Warder* acts too much like a snarling cur, and, we have no doubt, is hideously offensive to the vast bulk of the people on whose behalf it officiously takes up the cudgels. The *Warder*, and all those like it, would do well to bear in mind that nowhere is a minority so well, so tolerantly and so generously treated as the Protestant minority in this Province of Quebec. All their religious and civil rights are abundantly protected, and their share in the public honors and places of trust is more than what strict numbers would entitle them to. In this respect they are 100 per cent. better treated in Quebec than the Catholic minority in Ontario.

We see here as Mr. Turle pointed out in his letter to the *Mail*, what cannot be seen in any of the other Provinces; constituencies exclusively or largely Catholic and French returning members to the Legislatures who are English Protestants. The cities of Quebec and Montreal and elsewhere have elected and will elect their English Protestant mayors and other municipal officers; but show us an English or Irish or French Catholic ever elected in Toronto or any other large city of Ontario to similar positions.

Wherever intolerance and bigotry may flourish, they are not flourishing plants on soil where Catholics are in the majority, no matter of what nationality.

The *Warder* talks of the English minority being in abject slavery to the French! This abuse of the truth would be unworthy of notice or contradiction only that there are lots of games in Ontario who, not knowing the difference would be ready to swallow such rubbish. For their benefit we may tell them that the entire English speaking minority only form about a fifth of the population of the Province; and yet of the six members which constitute the Provincial Cabinet two are Protestant representatives—Messrs. Lynch and Robertson—and one Irish representative in the person of Mr. Flynn. They also send some fifteen English speaking members both to the Local and to the Federal Houses, and the small Protestant minority of the Province has a representative in the Dominion Cabinet.

That does not look like exclusion or slavery.

Then in the distribution of public offices, the minority more than holds its own, which cannot be said of the Catholic minority in Ontario. For instance, in the fifteen departments of the Provincial Civil Service the French-Canadian employees draw salaries to the amount of \$110,436, while the salaries of the English-speaking employees amount to \$42,750, or exactly twice the amount more than what their numbers entitle them to.

After digesting those facts and figures we would strongly recommend the *Victoria Warder* and its other Tory Orange chums to leave well enough alone in Quebec, and if they want to wipe out any religious or race prejudices to take a survey of their own dirty interiors and the dark smelling corners that still linger in Ontario, and they will find a nauseous coating of prejudices, national and religious, which will take all their time and good will to wipe out forever.

**ARCHBISHOP TACHE AND THE MINISTRIAL ORGANS.**

The Ministerial organs have not been put in the best of humor by the publication of Archbishop Tache's manifesto on the situation in the North-West. This solemn utterance of

His Grace has been to them as so much band-aiding on the wall, and in consequence their perturbation of mind and despair of political redemption have been greatly increased. The very circumstance which has drawn this unassailable testimony to the truth and to justice, from the pen of the great archbishop of the Northwest, is enough to shatter their odious and unpatriotic efforts to whitewash a criminal administration. His Grace, in opening his letter, declares that, notwithstanding the cruel anguish, the painful emotions and the mental suffering which he has experienced at the sight of the distress and ruin around him, he would still have kept silent if certain partisans and organs "had not used his name in a manner equally unjust and disloyal" in the discussion on North-West affairs, and had not persisted in "forcing upon him ideas which he never entertained and feelings which he repudiates."

The *Montreal Gazette* this morning approaches the formidable pronouncement of Mgr. Taché in a two column article, which breathes neither defiance nor triumph. It could muster up neither sufficient audacity nor perversity to throw the document back in the Archbishop's face, as Sir John Macdonald did with the arraignment of the Government's policy in the North-West by Edward Blake on the floor of the House. Nor does the *Gazette* utter a triumphant cry that the Government has been vindicated by His Grace, and that opposition to them is treason and means a war of races and of creeds. The *Gazette* reeled under the staggering blow delivered by the Archbishop in the following words:—

Minds too superficial, alas! or too interested to take a serious and impartial view of our difficulties, consider that they have accomplished their duties as citizens by exclaiming: "Riel is the cause of all the harm. It was he who did all he has paid for it, the country is safe now." This explanation is so unreasonable that, if it were accepted, we might expect new disturbances in the near future. \* \* \* Therefore it is deceiving one's self, or striving to deceive others, to throw on one man alone the causes of the misfortunes which we all deplore.

No, the country is not now safe because Riel is in his grave; it will be safe only when the men who brought the rebellion about by their misgovernment will have been harled from power and chastised for their sins against the country and the people. The organs and partisans of the Government cannot deceive an entire people. These have eyes to see and ears to hear, and they will not remain deaf or blind to the cries of the oppressed population of the North-West. The cause of the misfortunes of the half-breeds and Indians was not annihilated on the scaffold at Regina.

**THE WHITE SLAVES OF LABRADOR.**

The "great North-West" and the "West" in general monopolizes so much attention in parliament and press that people have little time to give much attention to what lies in the east. Yet it seems that there is existing at the present moment on the eastern coast of Canada a condition of things which are simply terrible, cruel and disgraceful, and demand immediate remedy. Most people have read of the slave ships and the mysteries of their wretched inmates at sea and their sufferings when handed over to the tender mercies of their purchasers. But these horrors, so often described, can, it appears, be witnessed at our own doors, and the color of the victims is not black, but white. For half a century past a system of female labor has been cultivated in connection with the Labrador fisheries, which, when investigated, is something terrible. None too soon an agitation has been commenced in Newfoundland, having for its object the suppression of what is nothing more than an outrage on civilization. The press has taken up the subject, in consequence of a reference in no measured terms to the matter by the Chief Justice of the island. The grand jury have endorsed his opinions, and now, the ball set rolling, it is probable that some benefits may come. So far so good, but it is terrible that a condition of affairs of the nature in question should have been tolerated for so many years. The discovery—for it appears that this evil is to some extent a discovery to a large proportion of the community—has revealed a sad condition of things. It appears that during the fishing season women are shipped to Labrador under very inhuman circumstances, and the whole traffic is of a character quite as bad in degree as the now criminal slave trade. An idea of the evils which are crying for remedy may be gleaned from the following passage extracted from a Maritime paper:—

"It is calculated by competent judges, that not less than 4,000 women are every year carried to Labrador in wretched small vessels, fearfully overcrowded, without any attention to comfort or accommodation—any separation of the sexes, any means even of cooking, in many instances. The women and children are packed together in the dark, pestiferous holds, where scenes of suffering occur reminding us of what we have read regarding the horrors of 'the middle passage' in the palmier days of slavery. The voyage averages from ten days to a fortnight. To crown the horrors, it is a common practice for whole families to embark carrying with them their domestic animals—poultry, goats, pigs, dogs—if left behind these would perish by hunger. Fancy the condition of a vessel carrying such a human and animal cargo. Imagine the sufferings of these poor souls during a storm; and bad weather going to Labrador and returning home, in October and November, is the rule along these rugged, storm-beaten shores. On arriving at their destination, after the sufferings endured on board, they have to set to work, in the first place, to clear out the huts which have been filled with snow and ice during the winter, and these are still untempered. In these huts, built of sods, and for four months they toil hard catching and curing the cod. When winter approaches, they are again packed on board as before, and if the vessels escape wrecking, they reach home with enough earned to keep them alive during winter. So the weary round goes on, year by year, and

as their numbers increase, their toils and sufferings are intensified."

Another gentleman describes as follows the condition of one of the vessels he was called on to visit. He writes:—

I was requested to visit a poor woman dying of consumption. My guide took me down the hatchway. I had to crawl on my hands and knees. Here I saw, by the dim light of a lantern, men, women and children stowed away in every hole and corner. The noise of the children crying—men and women, some scolding, some singing, was enough to drive any one insane; not to speak of a mother who only two days previous had given birth to a child; and the poor creature, the object of my visit, gasping for breath upon a bed fixed between two boxes, there only being about six inches between her and the deck of the vessel. But the stench was something more fearful than the noise, and this was owing to dogs, goats, etc., being in close proximity. When I got back on deck I was thankful. The deck, I should add, was lumbered up with puncheons, casks and punts, so that a female or a child would have a poor chance to get out of the hold in a case of emergency. And on that vessel, as on others, the hatchway was covered up, when out at sea, unless the time was very fine, which is an exception in the fall. I will let the reader imagine the hold of that vessel during a storm at sea. That vessel is not an exception. You may guess why so many women and children were lost during the late storm on Labrador.

This horrible condition of society exists in the midst of our civilization! Here are human beings every year treated in a manner which the law does not allow to be extended to the cattle which leave our ports, and until now it does not seem to have been anyone's business to interfere or investigate the subject. Newfoundland is not in the Dominion, but Labrador is, and so the press and people of the Confederation may do something to bring about the abolition of this white slave trade. The degradation of these women and children is to a great extent a matter belonging to this country as well as to Newfoundland.

**THE MARCH OF THE SIX HUNDRED MACDONNELL MEN.**

**A LEAF FROM THE WAR OF 1812.**

BY JOHN FRASER, MONTREAL.

No. 17.

The march of the Macdonnell men! They were not all Macdonnells, neither were they all Glengarrigans, nor even Scotchmen. In that brave little band of 600, led by Red George—Colonel George Macdonnell of the Glengarriges, the hero of Ogdenburg! The officers were nearly all Scotchmen, or at least bore Scotch names, but fully five-sixths of the men were sturdy young French voyageurs and hardy shanty men. The woodman's axe and the boatman's oar or paddle were as playthings in their hands. They were just such kind of men as had lately served in the Canadian contingent under General Wolsley in the land of the Pharaohs.

Come, young Canadian readers, let us go back some three score years and ten, to the month of October, 1813; to those dark but glorious days in the past history of our country—to those days when our noble and brave ancestors had to defend a frontier extending over one thousand miles in length against the assaults of an enemy ten times their number, manfully facing every invasion and finally driving the enemy from our borders! The story or the sketch of some of the deeds of our fathers will, assuredly, strike some chord in the "peace hound pulses" of the young Canadian heart.

The celebrated march of sixty-two English miles in twenty-six hours by the Light Division, under Crawford, to reach the field of Talavera, to protect and cover the retreat of the British army under Lord Wellington—after that terrible fight, which Wellington had won but was obliged afterwards to retreat or fall back and to take up another position—is familiar to everyone the least acquainted with the marches, the counter-marches, and the battles of the Peninsular war.

The writer, as a boy, was intimate with many of the men of the 95th Rifles, one of the Regiments of that Light Division, and he now recalls the delight with which he listened to the stirring stories of the old soldiers. Only seventeen men, we believe, fell out of the ranks during that long march of sixty-two miles. Nearly at every league of their advance, cavalrymen from the field of Talavera met them, reporting progress of the British, and then conveying back to Lord Wellington the welcome news of the steady and sure advance of Crawford and his men to his support. The excitement pervading all ranks was intense! Every man knew the distance ahead to be reached, and he could count, almost to a certainty, the very hour of the arrival of the division on the field to join in the fight or to cover and protect the rear of the now retreating British army.

The formation of military camps close by the Canadian frontier, extending from Plattsburg to Detroit, during the summer and autumn of 1813, gave evidence of impending coming events, the sum and substance of which was to strike a decided blow for the reduction of Canada before the close of that year. The Americans had made themselves masters of the whole Western Hemisphere, having dispersed the British forces under General Proctor. Only a few hundreds of Proctor's men escaped by falling back and retreating through the then dense forests of western Canada by way of Ancaster to the entrenched position at Burlington Heights. Fort George, at the mouth of the Niagara, was still in the possession of the enemy.

To our story or sketch:—"The march of the Macdonnell men." It was not altogether a march. It was partly a march and partly a sail—a sail of 170 miles down the rapids of the St. Lawrence, from Kingston to Beauharnois, and a march of some 20 miles from Beauharnois through the backwoods to join and support the rear of DeSalaberry's small force then facing, watching and disputing the advance of Hampton's army of twenty times their number. This extraordinary sail and march of 190 miles was performed in the almost incredible short space of time of sixty hours of actual travel after leaving Kingston until they reached the battlefield of Chateaugay!

Sir George Prevost, the Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Canada, was at Kingston on the 20th of October, 1813. The American army of some 10,000 strong was then concentrating in the neighborhood of Kingston, making preparations for a descent of the St. Lawrence to attack Montreal. Hampton's army of about the same strength, watched by DeSalaberry, was advancing on Montreal by way of Chateaugay, to form a junction with Wilkinson on the shores of Lake St. Louis above Lachine.

These were dark days for the fate of Montreal.

Prevost mounted his horse at Kingston to proceed by relays of horse with all possible speed by land to the threatened points in Lower Canada. Before starting he sent for Macdonnell (Colonel George) who had lately been appointed to the command of a battalion of French Canadian Fencibles Macdonnell was then at Kingston, organizing and drilling that newly raised regiment. Prevost asked him if his men were fit to proceed to Chateaugay, and how soon.

Macdonnell's reply was:—"That his men were ready to embark as soon as they had dinner!" Plucky boys, such was the material our Canadian army of 1812 was composed of. Prevost gave him *carte blanche*, simply entrusting on him to throw his whole force in front of Hampton's advance.

If we may use a vulgar term, Macdonnell found himself in "a fix." He had not only to find boats, but to secure pilots to conduct his force down the dangerous rapids of the St. Lawrence. These preparations, fortunately, did not take much over three hours. Every man was then on board. That sail of 170 miles down the St. Lawrence from Kingston to Beauharnois, in open boats, was quite a different undertaking to a sail nowadays in one of our well-built and well-equipped lake steamers.

Macdonnell and his six hundred had only batteau and common flat bottom boats or scows, row boats, with paddle and oar to propel them, to face the dangers of the Long Sault, the Coteau, the Cadars and the Cascade rapids; the breaking of an oar or the loss of a paddle would be a serious matter to them. But these boats contained not only brave men, but men skilled in the dangers of the navigation through which they had to pass; a goodly number of them were old voyageurs, having many times previously faced the dangers then ahead of them.

It was just 63 years before that time, in 1760, when General Amherst passed down these same rapids from Oswego with his army of about 10,000 men, advancing on Montreal, losing in one of these rapids—the Coteau—68 batteaux and 88 men. Macdonnell did not lose one boat or one man in his descent.

Besides the dangers of the rapids, this little force after leaving Kingston had to work its way through the gubatois and the armed schooners attached to Wilkinson's force, and on their onward course through the Thousand Islands and down the St. Lawrence they were exposed at all points to the enemy's marksmen and to the guns at the various fortified posts as they passed, coming them to be on their guard the whole way and to hug closely the Canadian shore, out of the reach of the enemy's bullets.

They reached Beauharnois on the evening of the 24th of October, 1813, (having encountered a fearful storm on Lake St. Louis, after clearing the Cascades Rapids), thence from Beauharnois, by a midnight march, in Indian file, of 20 miles, through the backwoods, arriving at DeSalaberry's rear at early morning of the 25th—ever-to-be-remembered 25th day of October, 1813, in advance of Sir George Prevost, who had ridden down by relays of horse.

On Prevost meeting Macdonnell, he exclaimed in a tone of great surprise:—"And where are your men, Macdonnell?" "There," said Macdonnell, pointing to six hundred worn out men sleeping all around on the ground, not one man missing! Thus accomplishing the distance from Kingston to the battlefield of Chateaugay, 170 miles by water and 20 miles by land, in sixty hours of actual travel.

What a timely arrival was Macdonnell's force to DeSalaberry, whose whole force previous to this did not exceed four hundred men. That same day, the 25th of October, Hampton's advance was arrested, and then began a retreat, an ignominious retreat, before a force now increased to about one thousand men, not one tenth of the invading army—that is, counting, all their ranks, regulars and militia.

It is not our intention to chronicle the many daring feats of DeSalaberry's little band of Canadian volunteers and the hardships they had to endure for weeks in watching and disputing the advance of Hampton's army, but simply to record, as at the head of this article:—"The march of the 600 Macdonnell men," and we have done this to the best of our humble ability.

Seventy-two years have come and gone since the meeting of Macdonnell and DeSalaberry on the battlefield of Chateaugay! This was a meeting of two kindred spirits—brothers in arms! Macdonnell was a true representative of the Highland gentlemen of the old time, descended from a family of soldiers. War, for centuries, had been his trade or profession. The same might be said of all Highlanders at the beginning of the last century. Scotch names could then be found in every army of Europe. France can boast of her celebrated Marshal Macdonell. DeSalaberry was a true type of a French nobleman, a worthy representative of an old French family. The DeSalaberries were early settlers in French Canada.

The most striking historical feature of these two Canadians is this:—They were representatives of two noble families which, seventy years before the meeting of these two men at Chateaugay, were in arms against the crown of Great Britain. The Macdonnells were all out in the rebellion of 1745, closing with fatal Culloden. DeSalaberry's ancestors were then soldiers of old France. We may here add that in religion they belonged to the same church, the Church of Rome. If we mistake not, there were two DeSalaberries at the storming and fall of Ciudad Rodrigo, in January, 1812, one in the British the other in the French army.