

complaint of wrong done by the Government, before the public? So did Colonel Guly, therefore that could not be a barrier, for they could hardly offer him an appointment after doing that which they blamed in us. Moreover, Colonel Guly attacked the Government bitterly through the public journals; we merely published certain correspondence with the Secretary which pointed out their injustice and their oppression in regard to us, and this we placed before a legitimate tribunal, the first in the land,—the House of Assembly. On the journals of that House stands recorded the report of a Select Committee, showing that wrong had been done to us by the Administration, and praying for an address to the first authority in the colony.—Had we not been a Conservative, that address would have been granted by the House without a dissentient voice on their side; but the Radical party, to whom we had always been opposed, rose almost to a man to punish us for our long-sustained political hostility to them, and gladly they joined with that fountain of all injustice—Mr. Draper—to crush the action that would otherwise have been taken in the matter. But the Report of the Committee nothing can obliterate: it stands on the journals of the House, a record of the triumph, on investigation, of right over wrong.

We should not have made this allusion to ourselves, had it not been that our own case forms a groundwork for exhibiting the insincerity of the motives set forth in this defence of their conduct by the Administration in regard to Colonel Guly. Our object is to show that the declaration of intention to appoint him to some other situation, on his retirement from the office of Adjutant-General of Militia, arises not from any sense of justice, or acknowledgment of his claim, but solely from a desire to conciliate an opponent who, they deem, may be formidable at a moment when they least desire an addition to their already numerous enemies.

But history will deal with these men as they merit, and to history we consign them.

DESERTION IN THE ARMY.

Under the above head appeared, a day or two since, a long article in the *Courier*, which we subjoin. We do this the more readily because, as will be seen in ensuing numbers of the "Eight Years in Canada," we have devoted a good deal of space not only to this important subject, but to a consideration of the means by which it seems to us this evil might be remedied. Commanding Officers of corps and regiments may do worse than bestow some little attention on the hints we have therein thrown out:—

Reports having become very prevalent for some time past, that numerous desertions have taken place in the 71st Regiment—we have made some enquiries into the matter, and the following particulars have been told to us. For their truth we do not vouch, but from the quarter whence our information was derived, we believe them to be correct.

The reserve battalion of the 71st regiment was stationed at Kingston, C. W., until recently, when it was relieved by the 16th regiment, and is now stationed at Laprairie, with a detachment at St. Helen's. During the time

this regiment was in Kingston, we are informed that up to some time in the month of July last, it had lost, by desertion, about Seventy men; but from that month until its recent arrival in Montreal, the crime had ceased to a great extent, only three men having since that deserted.

We are told that two men of the 71st, having purchased their discharges,—or having become entitled to them by length of service, had found their way to Sackett's Harbour, at which place a recruiting party of the regular army of the United States was stationed.—They then enlisted themselves into the service of the republic, and furnished with civilian clothes returned to Kingston, where they hung about the barracks, and, there is no doubt, persuaded the other men to desert. It was not known to the officers of the regiment that these men had entered the American service, or they would not, of course, have been permitted to remain about the barracks. There is no positive proof that these fellows were sent purposely to seduce their former comrades from their colours, but there is every probability that such was the case, and the mere fact of their having been permitted to revisit the Canadian side the Lake after enlistment in the American service, goes far to prove that such was the fact.

It is supposed that the soldiers were tempted by the offer of large bounties and better pay, with other prospects of advantages; but, however, that may be, it is certain that desertion to a very great extent took place.

We are told that an officer of the 71st went over to Sackett's Harbour, and meeting with one of the American officers stationed there, asked him if they ever took deserters from the British Service into their army; to which he replied that they did not; upon which the English officer took him to the American main-guard and there showed him three men of his own company! The men very coolly saluted their former Captain, and the American officer shrugged up his shoulders and said that he could not do otherwise than do so, as these countrymen who applied to enter their service. This was a falsehood, for we deny the fact, that any man who has ever been drilled can escape, without being at once discovered, by the eye of a man who is himself a soldier. The English captain saw several more men of his regiment about the barracks, most of whom tried to get out of his way, evidently ashamed of themselves, while others whom he encountered unexpectedly, could not forget their old habits, drew up as he passed, and saluted him.

Some two or three of the men, disgusted at their treatment by the Americans, deserted from them in return and surrendered themselves. It was then found that the poor deluded fellows had been regularly victimized; that although their seducers had promised them a large bounty, &c., yet they were made pay for so many articles in the shape of necessities and at such extravagant rates, that their great bounties soon vanished into the pockets of the swindling yankee quarter-masters. They stated also that they were severely treated, being confined to barracks after six o'clock in the evening, and guard mounted at the gates by American volunteers, in order that they should not escape after the discovery of their victimization. These men it is supposed have all been sent to Mexico, and if the truth could be known, we believe it would be ascertained that some couple of thousands of the army under General Taylor are English deserters, and that the Americans have a regularly laid and deliberate plan for recruiting their ragamuffins by enticing away English soldiers under false pretences. We are not sorry for the rascals who desert—no treatment is bad enough for them, and we only hope Taylor will take them where they will be half starved and well peppered, but what are we to think of a government that tacitly encourages crime of the basest kind in the army of a friendly power, if it does

actually authorize it, which one would almost suppose to be the case. What are we to think of the character of the officers who make themselves the instruments of this incredible rascality? We usually associate the character of an officer in any military body, with that of a gentleman—the words "officer" and "gentleman" are usually considered and ought to be synonymous, but how can the officers of the American army reconcile the deliberate seduction of British soldiers from the service of their country, from the colours they have sworn to defend, with the character of a gentleman; is it usual for gentlemen to encourage felony and perjury? Is it usual for gentlemen to lead others to commit disgraceful crimes, for which they may be shot or transported?—What would be thought of the British Government, were it to send emissaries to France, in order to induce French soldiers to desert?

We state these particulars more for the purpose of bringing this outrageous system under the notice of the respectable papers in the United States, than for any other reason. It is but right that honourable and high minded men in the United States should know the existence of a practice, disonouring to their country, offensive in the highest degree to Great Britain, and eminently calculated to disturb the harmony at present existing between the two countries.

Any man of sense must know that the pretext of not knowing the men to have been soldiers, is all fudge; no military man will believe it, and the assertion is only adding the crime of falsehood, to a transaction sufficiently foul without the added meanness of a lie. We think it quite disreputable enough to the character of any army to receive deserters from the forces of a friendly power, but to entice them away deliberately is a blot upon the character of a nation, and a foul stain upon the honours of its soldiery.

We may mention, before we whatever in a remarks, that there is in town on Saturday, statement, promulgated, that some of these men have deserted since their arrival at Laprairie.

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT.

Although no name was mentioned in our article of last week, in reference to the fraud said to have been practised in the Crown Lands Office, the very party to whom we alluded called upon us a day or two since, and strongly denying the guilt that has been attributed to him, handed to us the following letter in French, to which his own signature was attached.

As we can have no desire to injure any individual whatever, but simply to expose the abuses which exist in the Department, we subjoin a translation of the letter, leaving the public to form its own opinion:—

"Montreal, 19th October, 1846.

"Sir,—In consequence of an editorial article which appeared in the *Expositor* of Thursday last, committing and implicating certain Clerks in the Crown Lands Department to which I am attached, and as my name is moreover mixed up at present with the charge, I could wish to know from you if I am to consider the article in question, where you allude to a Mr. —, as personally regarding me?—in which case, I request you formally to contradict the statement in your ensuing number; if not, I shall be compelled to do so myself, in some other English City Journal, anonymously, and conformably to the manner of the charge in question.—An answer will greatly oblige him who signs himself, Sir,

Your obdt. servant,

"To the Editor of the *Expositor*."