

mortalized by Virgil in his 6th *Æneid*, of whose shade, seen for a moment in Hades, advancing by the side of that of his sire, it was so pathetically said

"Ah! couldst thou break through Fate's severe decree,—  
A new Marcellus shall arise in thee."

Even so, had it been ordained that the young soldier should have longer survived, it is likely he would have proved a true Marcellus, a true son of his father, and an enthusiastic soldier. Even in 1812, the dangers to Great Britain from foreign usurpation which had troubled Gen. Simcoe's mind in 1801 had not fully subsided. Napoleon Bonaparte still survived, and was strongly entrenched in Spain. In 1812 occurred the famous Siege of Badajoz by the Duke of Wellington, followed by the storming of the fortress and the destruction of so many gallant English soldiers. It was the lot of the young Francis Gwillim Simcoe to be amongst these.

I have a copy of the letter written by a military chaplain immediately after the event, and addressed by him to the young officer's widowed mother, conveying to her the sad intelligence. This letter will tell its own sad tale. It reads as follows:—

"Though perfectly unknown, yet my feelings dictate that I should in the present melancholy season address you, as I am aware your anxiety must be great respecting the fate of my most esteemed friend, your son. Sincerely lamented by all who knew him, he fell, on the night of the 6th, in the midst of several others, his brother officers, and hundreds of his fellow-countrymen, while storming the town of Badajoz: to state the details of this circumstance would be needless. In him I have lost a promising young friend, an agreeable companion, and a good Christian; and allow me most sincerely to sympathize and condole with you in the great loss you have sustained by the death of an affectionate and dutiful son.

"On the morning of the 7th, I went in search of my esteemed and valued young friend, and was so fortunate as to find him lying in the breach where (as I am sure it will be satisfactory for a friend and parent to be informed) I performed the last offices over

him, and got him as decently interred as the great confusion of our most melancholy situation would admit. He has left no memorandum behind him, though frequently entreated by me to do so in case of accident; neither did he make any requests when I parted with him, but committed his fate entirely to Him who is the Disposer of all events."

"Proffering to you and your afflicted family my future services in any way I can be useful, allow me to subscribe, etc.,

"GEORGE JENKINS,

"Chaplain to the forces, 4th Division;  
"Badajoz Camp, April 9th, 1812."

From childhood to maturity had been passed in an atmosphere intensely military. In addition, as the Chaplain's letter gives us to understand, the religious faculty had been developed and duly trained; as a Christian soldier, his warfare was speedily accomplished. Whatever in the order of Providence had been appointed for him to do was done, and the young life sacrificed in the doing of it was one more witness to the truth of the motto appended to the Simcoe Family Arms, *Non sibi sed Patriae*—"Not for himself, but for his Country."

Enough has been said to show that our familiar expression "Castle Frank" has associations of historical interest connected with it, and that its story involves the story of one, who, if not a distinctly individualized hero, died heroically in the direct discharge of duty as a soldier in the midst of circumstances most appalling. We are told by Napier, in his description of the storming of Badajoz, that "When Wellington saw the havoc of the night, the firmness of his nature gave away for a moment, and the pride of conquest yielded to a passionate burst of grief for the loss of his gallant soldiers."

The young officer's remains were never removed from the spot where the good Chaplain saw them deposited. The interior wall of the private Chapel at Wolford, the seat of the Simcoe Family, shows the following inscription:—