

apron. The dandies sported deerskin aprons and had capuchins to their great coats, the breasts of which, as well as their trouser legs from ankle to knee, were ornamented with brass buttons.

Many were armed, but many were not, expecting to get arms at St. Eustache, an expectation that was in many cases unfilled.

Some were excited and enthusiastic; some noisy and bombastic, according as their temperament and the fever in their blood inclined; others quiet and undemonstrative as their better sense dictated. They did not return with as much publicity, but slipped slyly and quietly home in small parties to realize later that they had been the dupes of a few political gamblers.

It is either not true that the more ardent seekers after liberty were so careless of that of their pressed compatriots that they put them in the places of greatest danger in the day of battle, where they were between the devil and the deep sea, but which positions they deserted, or else the disaffection of many on whom the leaders had really depended was not deep enough to impel them to actual armed resistance of authority. Because we read that a considerable number fled without firing a shot, and that, while one road was occupied by an approaching Nemesis, in the shape of the punitive column under Colborne, another was filled with retreating rebels, who left the honour of meeting the troops to those of their comrades who possessed the requisite bravery. Even Girod fled immediately the firing began. Perhaps it would be better to describe that as infatuation which could induce men to disbelieve the well-authenticated news of the defeat, by Colonel Wetherall, of their comrades at St. Charles under "a person named Brown", (as the school histories used to describe him), and could lead them to imagine that there was a chance of establishing in the face of

the power of Britain "the Northwest Republic".

It was either during the defection mentioned above, or at subsequent attempts to escape after the engagement, that the fugitive rebels threw aside, on the ice and elsewhere, their arms, which were gathered up by the troops and eventually put in store at Laprairie. Here they remained about two years, when a petition was presented by the inhabitants of "Le Nord" and vicinity asking for the restoration of their arms.

The reason for this move was that the wolves seemed to know intuitively that the country was denuded of firearms, and grew daily bolder till at last hardly a day passed but that they committed some depredation on the settlers' stock, or were seen or heard in close proximity to the clearings.

The petition setting forth the plight of the settlers was favourably received and permission was given to convey several team loads of arms from Laprairie to the store of William Scott, at Bellefeuilles' Mills. Here they were deposited, and those who could identify any of them as being their property were permitted to take possession of such. These arms were a motley collection in every state of disrepair. Many were without locks, and many, for other reasons, could not be discharged, but the owners were glad to recover them.

The troops did not visit Bellefeuilles' Mills or "Le Nord", but it is recollected that old Madame Viseau precipitated herself, and some precious handboxes, upon her neighbour, Mrs. Scott, of "Le Nord", demanding protection, firmly convinced that the troops would come and apply the torch as they were even then doing at St. Benoit. But the depredations in the vicinity had not been serious enough to warrant retaliatory measures; the military never occupied "Le Nord", and the Viseau handboxes were saved.