

THE MEN OF '37.

The Promises Made to Them Have Never Been Fulfilled - A Veteran Speaks to the Question.

To the Editor of the Signal.

GENTLEMEN,—As the following is a purely non-party matter, but one in which I know many of both of your readers will take a lively interest, I now take the liberty of addressing you simultaneously, and would respectfully solicit your support in the cause of justice to old settlers, or their families. I may, perhaps, as well at once explain my reason for putting myself forward in this matter. At the organization of the militia in Huron, I think a year or two before the rebellion, Doctor Dunlop, as colonel, appointed me senior lieutenant; and on the outbreak in 1837, before starting for the St. Clair, he named me as quartermaster—a position which I can assure you was no sinecure in those days when there were no droves of fat cattle ever passing our doors, as we now see every week or so. The only other commissioned officer of that period in Huron, now in existence, is our townsman, Mr. George Fraser, then lieutenant and adjutant; and from whom I have received much assistance in refreshing my memory on the subject. I now, therefore, deem it my duty as the senior officer of the time now alive, to make my old friends, whom I know to have suffered so much, aware of the promise made to them in the name of our Gracious Queen in the first year of her reign, but yet unfulfilled!

In the Toronto Mail of 31st March last, there appeared a long letter from a Mr. Gilpin, of Fort Hope, under the above head, wherein he begins with a quotation from a previous issue, as follows: "The Queen has been pleased to approve of a medal being granted to all the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Her Majesty's forces, in the recent operations in Egypt. Her Majesty has also approved of an issue of a CLASP, inscribed 'Tel-el-Kebir,' to those troops who took part in the night march from KASSASSY." He then, indignantly exclaims, "What a commentary on the attitude assumed by the authorities in this country with respect to the loyal survivors of the Canadian Rebellion!"

I shall now, with your permission, give some rather extensive quotations from this gentleman's letter, to show your readers the feeling of the people in other localities upon this subject. In speaking of the rebellion, he says: "It is now more than forty-five years since the Canadian Rebellion broke out in LOWER CANADA; Lieut. Weir was murdered and a great many atrocities were committed. As the rebels in a brief period were successful in various localities, the alarm became general in many quarters that they might succeed, with the assistance of the sympathizers across the border; besides, the formidable organization called 'Hunter's Lodges,' inside the United States line, was a very considerable source of anxiety, and the absence of a sufficient body of regular troops to quell the disturbances awake in the loyalists of Upper Canada a desire to assist the Government to the utmost of their power." As to the march of the Cobourg, Port Hope and Cavan volunteers to Toronto, he says: "They marched over fearful roads, leaving incredible hardships they were not accustomed to, sleeping at night on bare boards in their clothes, oftentimes without fire or sufficient food, and suffering everything but death. The Royalists rose every where in the hour of danger, to defend the country from traitors at home and sympathizers abroad, and had it not been for those devoted patriots NO DOUBT THE LAND WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST FOREVER TO THE BRITISH CROWN. I do not intend to recall to present the memory of the sufferings that those loyal men underwent in their endeavour to protect and save their country from home and foreign enemies—if required that will be forthcoming—but I do desire, humbly, in the interest of the few survivors, to entreat the Government and their supporters in the House of Commons and Senate, to carry out the promises made in 1838. After the cutting out of the steamer CAROLINE, Sir Francis Bond Head, under authority we were lead to believe, made a speech to the volunteers on the Niagara frontier, in which he said that every loyalist that had taken up arms in defence of his country in the rebellion would be rewarded with

ONE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND. "I remember well this speech. Further more a general order to the same effect was read at the head of many, if not every regiment wherever quartered. I met on the 7th of Dec., the anniversary of the breaking out of the rebellion in Upper Canada, by accident, seven veterans of '37, decrepit old men, who had fought in different parts of the country, and I took occasion to question them on this subject, and I found that all remembered the circumstance distinctly. If such a promise was made, and there is no doubt whatever about that fact, why has it not been fulfilled? Why should a nation, or its representatives, or the successors of those that made the promises any more than an individual, be allowed to withdraw from such a promise, made in good faith at the time, and with authority, and to be held to be true and sincere? I am in a position to say, for I have frequently heard the murmurs, that the mode the Government has adopted has had their feelings more than the loss of the 100 acres of land; and for myself, I say that I have been urged for years to bring the thing before the people, in the hope that while land is so plentiful in the North-west Territory, that cost the Government comparatively nothing, some measure of justice and relief should be accorded to the survivors of 1837 & '38 and their sufferings, and in some instances, absolutely destitute families. (The italics and small caps, in the above are mine.)

Now, Gentles, whilst I fully concur and believe in every word of the above, I cannot admit that the sufferings of the parties referred to will, compare with those of

in their journeyings to and from the St. Clair, and the hardships and privations they underwent for over two months on their bleak banks in mid-winter, lying at night on the bare floor, whether of wood or clay, having only a single blanket over them, or, perhaps none at all; they had neither roads nor bridges, clothes

nor arms, and oftentimes scant of food in spite of our utmost endeavors to procure it.

Mr. Gilpin, in the above, offers to give particulars of the promises; now, as we can not expect any one personally unacquainted with the matter, efficiently to plead our cause, either in Parliament or elsewhere; I purpose in another communication to send you, as particular and minute an account of the nature of our troubles as I can remember. In my own case I think I can show you that I had sundry providential escapes from death, and gives you some proof of the same; but, in the meantime, I merely wish to call attention to the subject, and would beg of your contemporaries, especially in Clinton and Seaford, for the sake of many of their readers, to take respectful notice of the same. I would also respectfully beg of the reverend and deputy-reverend, as a favor to at least some of their constituents, to collect the names of such parties as may be in their several neighborhoods having claims under the above named PROMISE, or any of their descendants, so that we may arrive at some idea of the number of claimants still in existence; always bearing in mind that if we should succeed in our attempt to obtain even late justice, every 100 acres of land, even at the Government's present price, represents

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS, and will very soon, if it has not already done so, double that amount or more; a sum of some importance to any family, and I would be very sorry that any one should be overlooked.

It is much to be regretted that this promise was not known in Huron at the time it was given, when the most indubitable evidence of our hardships and claims could have been given. But, it would seem, that because we were so far from the centre of operations, and our quarters so inaccessible, that the General Order referred to by Mr. Gilpin had overlooked us. Had we known of it at the time, I think the matter would have been long before this. As I am quite unable, however willing, to do more in this matter than to bring it before the parties interested, I take the liberty of suggesting to them the appointment of a corresponding committee, (say of three members) to communicate with our three Dominion representatives on the subject, whose assistance in this claim for justice, of so long standing, cannot be doubted; and to communicate also with parties in other localities wherever the militia had been called out; and, if possible, to organize a united appeal to Parliament, from every quarter, at the coming session, for the fulfilment of the promise of Her Majesty's representative in 1838, and the receipt of some satisfaction in that quarter. I would at once memorialize His Excellency the Governor General on the subject, or perhaps do both at the same time; for, I feel perfectly certain that no British nobleman will willingly see Her Majesty's good name soiled in her old age by the non-fulfilment of a promise of so paltry an amount as was promised us in our Queen's name, half a century ago, for the sufferings we endured in saving this very Dominion to Her Majesty's Crown from these very Lower Canadian Frenchmen! for, as Mr. Gilpin has truly said, had not the Loyalists turned out at once, and suffered as so many of them did, Canada would have been secured to recall to the British Crown. The rebellion in Lower Canada broke out some eight or ten days before the outbreak in Upper Canada; they fought the First Royals at St. Eustace, wounding Captain Markham and killing a number of his men; they intercepted Lieut. Weir with some dispatches at St. Dennis, murdering him, and, in the words of my informant, (within the last few weeks), all but chopped him into inches, throwing the pieces into the river Chambly! Could the most heathen of savages have done more, unless they had broiled and eaten him? But, by this fiendish act, they gave the example to the ruffians and loafers of Detroit and vicinity, and at a later period; when some fifteen hundred of them surrounded the house of our old friend, Peter Green, then in Windsor, aroused him and his family from their slumbers at three o'clock of a December morning, by repeated volleys of musketry through and through his house, shooting him through the ankle, and on his attempting to get his youngest child out of the house, stabbed him through the hand in warding off a bayonet-thrust aimed at the infant on his other arm. They then unfortunately got hold of Doctor Hume of the 34th regiment, murdered him; and, in French fashion, chopped his legs and arms off with an axe found in the wood shed. Just as if they supposed that the slaughter of a few infants, and the mutilation of two or three British officers would ensure them the possession of Canada! Will British or Canadian born members support this French faction in opposing the claims of the Loyalists of 1837 and '38 to the fulfilment of Her Majesty's promise in her name, when they see and consider, as above reminded of by Mr. Gilpin, that the participants in a one night's engagement in Egypt, a tributary of Turkey, an expensive ally of England, have been rewarded with tangible honors, which may be handed down as heir-looms in their families, while we, who certainly aided in saving this noble Dominion to her Majesty's crown, half a century ago have not as yet received "thank you?" But, to come nearer home, it is a well known fact that the survivors of the troubles of 1812 and their families received grants of land in the county of Norfolk on Lake Erie and that the townships of Adelaide, Warwick, Plympton, Sarnia, &c., were largely filled up, about the very time that we were on duty, by grants to old soldiers and sailors who had served in the French war, the officers receiving two hundred acres without regard as to whether they had suffered personal injury or not. I profess not to compare the rebellion in Canada with the all but interminable European war of the first part of the century; but I have yet to learn that there is more moral courage, patriotism or bravery in the rapid rush

of the man armed and equipped with every modern invention, and feeling that he is shoulder to shoulder with men thoroughly trained, and himself than in the man suddenly called from the plough or chopping axe—his bread-winners for the ensuing season, and the dead loss of his winter's work on his newly purchased farm—to sleep night after night for weeks or months together, anticipating almost hour after hour some such raid from across the river, and a horde as poor as Great-suffered from, but quite uncertain as to how many of his comrades might of a sudden be released from the frozen ground to join him in his hour of need, with their only weapon, a twelve foot pike-pole in their hands.

There is yet another point of view in which I would place this subject; suppose that each of those then out on the St. Clair, over 800 men, had then received their promised hundred acres of land, the whole would not have amounted to within 4,000 acres of the size of Colborne, the smallest township in Huron; it would not nearly one-third; a mere speck in the North-west; and yet I have been told that the French will never allow it! But now, in conclusion for the present, I am glad to inform all loyalists of 1837, in whatever locality they may have served; that our County Council through the wardens and clerk have kindly granted us the use of the courtroom for a consultation as to whether we shall go farther in the matter and appoint a committee to act for us, or give it up altogether. I have given my opinion as the subject, but many others may think otherwise. I, therefore, propose that we meet in the courtroom at 2 o'clock p.m., on Wednesday the 25th December, (the second day of County Council meeting), and I would earnestly urge upon every one interested in the matter, or one of the sons of those who are now dead, or those who were appointed to attend families; to attend this meeting if at all in their power to do so. And as I am quite aware there will be parties present who were on duty in Kingston, Prescott and the Wind Mill, Kingsthorpe and Amherst Island, Toronto, Amherstburg, Windsor, and the Hurons; the committee (if one is appointed) could at once obtain some information as to whom it would be advisable to address on the subject in any of these places. I would be glad to see you, and to sympathize with us in this attempt to get late justice; or, who may wish to learn something of these olden times, to attend also and give us their countenance and advice in the matter. I now beg to thank you, gentlemen, for this extensive use of your columns, and remain, Your respectfully,

THOMAS KYDD. Thoroughness. A young New Englander, whose knowledge was more showy than deep, went many years ago, to teach a district school in Virginia. Among his pupils was a small, rather dull, and insignificant looking boy, who annoyed him by his questions. No matter what the subject under discussion, this lad apparently could find enough to the bottom of it to be content. One very warm August morning, the teacher, with no little vanity in a knowledge not universal in those days, began to lecture the boys on the habits and characteristics of a fish which one of them had caught during recess. He finished, and was about to dismiss the school, when his inquisitive pupil asked some questions about their gills and their use. The question answered, others followed, concerning the scales, skin and flesh. The poor teacher struggled to reply with all the information at his command. But that was small, and the day grew warmer, and the Saturday afternoon's holiday was rapidly slipping away. "The school will now be dismissed," he said at last. "But the bones! You have told us nothing about the bones!" said the anxious boy. "Mr. Dash smothered his annoyance and gave all the information he could command on the shape, structure, and use of the bones. "And now the school"—he began. "What is inside of the bones?" stolidly came from the corner where the quiet boy was sitting. Mr. Dash never remembered what answer he gave, but the question and his despair fixed themselves in his memory. Thirty-five years after he visited Washington, and entered the room where the Justices of the Supreme Court were sitting. The Chief Justice, the most learned jurist of his day, was a man like St. Paul, whose bodily presence was contemptible. The stranger regarded him at first with an awe, then with amazement. "It is the boy who went inside the fish's bones!" he exclaimed. If he had not tried to go inside of every fish's bones, he would never have reached the lofty position which he held. It is the boy who penetrates to the heart of the matter who is the successful scholar, and afterwards lawyer, physician, philosopher, or statesman. It is the man whose axe is laid to the root, not the outer branches, whose religion is a solid foundation for his life here and beyond.

Can't be Beaten. It is a fact that Nerviline cannot be surpassed by any combination for the relief of pain. The reason is a good one. Nerviline contains the best, most powerful, and the latest discovered remedies. It is a magic pain cure. Rheumatism, stiff neck, cramps, neuralgia, colic, etc. fact all pain, internal, external and local, are subdued in a few minutes. Go at once to J. Wilson's drug store and get a trial bottle. It will only cost you ten cents, and you can at a small cost test the great pain cure, Polson's Nerviline. Large bottles only 25 cents.

The Greatest Healing Compound is a preparation of carbolic acid, vaseline and creote called McGregor & Parke's Carbolic Creote. It will cure any sore, cut, burn or bruise when all other preparations fail. Call at G. Rhynas drug store, and get a package. 25 cents is all it costs.

Why suffer from nervous prostrations when you can buy a guaranteed cure at Wilsons drug store. (1)

Stanley. ACCIDENT.—This week while Jimina Thompson of the Bayfield Road, Stanley, was taking an armful of wood from the wood shed, a pile of wood fell on her cutting her head somewhat severely and otherwise bruising her. She will, however, soon be all right again.

OBITUARY.—The hand of death has been laid heavily on the northern portion of the second of Stanley during the last four months; for during that time three of the old residents of the concession have been called away. These were H. McGregor in July, Thos. Baird in September, and on the 16th, inst. John McEwen departed this life at the residence of his son Malcolm McEwen lot 30, 3rd con Stanley, in the 79th year of his age. He was born at Cap Bannoch, Loch Tay, in 1805, and received his education at the parish school in that place. He spent his youth as a farm servant, and married in 1834, his married life extending over the long period of forty-nine years. He emigrated to America with his wife and family in 1842 and remained two years in the township of Osgoode Russell Co., when he moved west and settled in the township of Stanley. After living a year on the Bayfield road, he settled on the farm at present occupied by his only remaining son, Malcolm McEwen. He was all woods, but by dint of perseverance and care he soon had a comfortable home, and was long in easy circumstances. For the last few years he lived retired in the village of Bruceville with his wife, who survives him. He was a constant member of the Presbyterian church, and without taking any active part in politics a staunch Reformer, all his life, and was firm friend of education. Kind, courteous, honest, upright and outspoken, he was well and widely known and highly respected.

In the history of medicines no preparation has received such universal commendation for the alleviation it affords, and the permanent cure it effects in kidney diseases, as Dr. Van Buren's Kidney Cure. Its action in these distressing complaints is simply wonderful. Sold by J. Wilson. 2m

They all tell the same story. W. Thompson, jeweler, Delhi, suffered for years from Dyspepsia, got no relief until he used Dr. Carson's Stomach Bitters. He says it was just the medicine I needed. It has cured me.

No household should be considered complete without a bottle of Dr. Van Buren's Kidney Cure in the closet. It is the only remedy that will positively, permanently and promptly cure all forms of kidney diseases. Sold by J. Wilson. 2m

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Loss and Gain. CHAPTER I. "I was taken sick a year ago with bilious fever. "My doctor pronounced me cured, but I got sick again, with terrible pains in my back and sides, and it got so bad that I could not move! I shrunk! From 228 lbs to 120! I had been doctoring for my notice, which prove the perfect adaptability of AYER'S SARSAPARILLA to the cure of all diseases arising from impure or impoverished blood, and a weakened vitality.

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