

Half Hours Off Duty.

A STORY OF THE WAR OF 1812.

By James Hannay.—From The Empire.

(Continued from Page 216.)

THE bad news which he had to communicate affected each member of the Wright family in a different way. The Squire became quite warlike over the intelligence and almost felt himself young again; Mrs. Wright looked sad and pensive, while Mary wept without any sort of disguise. It seemed as if she already felt a premonition of coming disaster and bereavement. Living on the frontier she knew that Newark would be exposed to all the miseries of war, and that her lover, who was always the first to court danger, might lose his life.

Squire Wright was disabled from taking the field by reason of his bodily infirmities, but his knowledge of details and his familiarity with the actual needs of warfare, were of infinite service in the equipment of the militia force of the district. His presence too seemed to inspire every one with his own zeal and courage, for there he stood a paladin of the old war with the scars of battle in his face, still strong in council and faithful to his country and his flag. A land defended by the sons of such a man, if the sons were worthy of their sire, could not be weak.

General Brock did not fail to justify the confidence which Rideout had expressed in his ability. He proved himself emphatically a good man. Even the Squire had to admit that Simcoe could not have done better and when the news came of his great achievement—the capture of the American army under Hull at Detroit, Edward Wright felt as proud of the commander of Upper Canada as if he had been his own son.

During the first three months of the war, Sergeant Sutherland had no opportunity of showing his prowess on the field of battle. He was engaged in routine duty mainly, except when he resumed his old avocation of a blacksmith for the benefit of the service. Newark was still safe and his intended wife was near him. Her brother at Stanley Creek had indeed suggested that his mother and sister should go to reside at his house while the war lasted, but as Mrs. Wright would not consent to be parted from her husband, the result was that the Wright family still remained in their home at Newark.

Every Canadian schoolboy knows the story of that memorable October day when a second American army surrendered at Queenston Heights, and that morning Sutherland was stationed at Fort George, but when early in the afternoon the news came that Brock had fallen, and that reinforcements were needed, he was one of the three hundred militia that marched with the men of the 41st regiment to Queenston to retrieve the day. There, after a short contest in which he took an honourable part, he witnessed the surrender of the entire body of American troops that had crossed into Canada. It was on that day that Newark had the first taste of actual war, in the cannonade which went on between Fort George and Fort Niagara. Capt. McKeon, who was in charge of the guns of the south blockhouse of the latter fort, finding himself unable to cope with the fire from Fort George, basely turned his guns upon the village and destroyed a couple of houses. Then, as if to completely illustrate the adage that a cruel man is always a coward, McKeon, his commander Leonard, and the entire American force in Fort Niagara, took to their heels and fled. During the remainder of this memorable year Newark saw nothing more of warfare.

Christmas Day of 1812 saw a great change in the aspect of the pretty Canadian town from what it had presented one short year before. The people too had likewise changed, if not in their individuality, at least in character. The sound of a hostile cannon brings out more of the real nature of a man than can be learned in a lifetime of peace. It makes heroes of some men and cravens of others. The taste of war had made a hero of Sutherland and marked him as a man fit for any dangerous service.

Squire Wright's table at the Christmas dinner had fewer guests than the year before. The youngest son, now promoted to be a lieutenant was absent in his vessel which was cruising in the Indian Ocean. Rideout also was missing for he had plenty to attend to in York. Samuel Wright and Sutherland were, however, present and both were in militia uniform. For a Christmas party it was an extremely quiet one; indeed it could hardly be otherwise considering the circumstances under which they met. The Niagara frontier had escaped for the time, but who could predict what another year might bring forth.

Squire Wright had given his accustomed toast to the King, but when he rose to give the second in order his voice quivered with an emotion very unusual to him. "Let us drink," he said, "to the memory of the gallant Simcoe and the heroic Brock."

(To be continued.)

"Editor's Back Stairs."

The Interesting Views of the Late Dr. J. G. Holland.

THE columns of the newspapers appear to be flooded with proprietary medicine advertisements. As we cast our eye over them, it brings to mind an article that was published by the late Dr. Holland in *Scribner's Monthly*. He says: "Nevertheless, it is a fact that many of the best proprietary medicines of the day were more successful than many physicians, and most of them, it should be remembered, were at first discovered or used in actual medical practice. When, however, any shrewd person, knowing their virtue, and foreseeing their popularity, secures and advertises them, then, in the opinion of the bigoted, all virtue went out of them."

Is not this absurd?

This great man appreciated the real merits of popular remedies, and the absurdity of those that derided them because public attention was called to the article and the evidence of their cures. If the most noted physician should announce that he had made a study of any certain organ or disease of the body, or make his sign larger than the code size, though he may have practised medicine and been a leader in all medical counsels, notwithstanding all this, if he should presume to advertise and decline to give his discovery to the public, he would be pronounced a quack and a humbug, although he may have spent his entire life and all his available funds in perfecting his investigations.

Again we say, "absurd."

If an ulcer is found upon one's arm, and is cured by some dear soul of a grandmother, outside of the code, it will be pronounced by the medical profession an ulcer of little importance. But if treated under the code, causing sleepless nights for a month, with the scientific treatment, viz., plasters, washes, dosing with morphine, arsenic and other vile substances, given to prevent blood poisoning or deaden pain, and yet the ulcer becomes malignant, and amputation is made necessary at last, to save life, yet all done according to the "isms" of the medical code, this is much more gratifying to the medical profession, and adds more dignity to that distinguished order than to be cured by the dear old grandmother's remedy.

This appears like a severe arraignment, yet we believe that it expresses the true standing of the medical profession in regard to remedies discovered outside of their special "isms." One of the most perplexing things of the day is the popularity of certain remedies, especially Warner's safe cure, which we find for sale everywhere. The physician of the highest standing is ready to concede its merits and sustain the theories the proprietors have made—that is, that it benefits in most of the ailments of the human system because it assists in putting the kidneys in proper condition, thereby aiding in throwing off the impurities of the blood, while others with less honesty and experience deride, and are willing to see their patient die scientifically, and according to the code, rather than have him cured by this great remedy.

Yet we notice that the popularity of the medicine continues to grow year by year. The discoverer comes boldly before the people with its merits, and proclaims them from door to door in our opinion much more honorably than the physician who, perchance, may secure a patient from some catastrophe, and is permitted to set a bone of an arm or a finger, which he does with great dignity, yet very soon after takes the liberty to climb the editor's back stairs at 2 o'clock in the morning to have it announced in the morning paper that "Dr. So-and-so was in attendance," thus securing for his benefit a beautiful and free advertisement.

We shall leave it to our readers to say which is the wiser and more honorable.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Ontario Artillery Association for consideration of Annual Reports and transaction of General Business will be held at the

ROSSIN HOUSE, AT TORONTO.

—ON—

Tuesday, 7th February, prox.,

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

A MEETING OF COUNCIL

Is also called to meet at the same place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 7th February prox., to consider Report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, etc.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,

Secretary.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
Toronto, 4th January, 1888.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION.

IN accordance with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I have received a notice of motion, in writing, that it is intended to propose the following alterations in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 7th February, 1888:—

"That Section 9 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of five members to be annually elected at the General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of this Committee.

"That Section 10 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The officers shall be a President and four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. That all words inconsistent with these changes be eliminated from the Constitution."

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,

Toronto, 10th Jan., 1888.

Secretary.

42 YEARS.

Steadfastly for forty-two years the WEEKLY WITNESS has held to principles which have stood the tests of time, ridicule, and of opposition, fair and unfair, and the WITNESS to-day speaks to sixty where in 1846 it spoke to one. Its growth has been both rapid and steady. Its publishers, desirous of still further increasing its circulation, have this year gone to large expense to secure a reproduction of THE LATEST MASTERPIECE of David-son Knowles (who was selected by Queen Victoria to paint the scene at Princess Beatrice's wedding), entitled

Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me.

It depicts the memorable scene with startling realism, reproducing in oils all the richness of ORIENTAL COLORING. The picture, executed by the greatest art firm in England, would bring \$1.50 if sold, but is reserved EXCLUSIVELY FOR SUBSCRIBERS to the WITNESS.

The price of the WEEKLY WITNESS and picture is \$1.25; the paper alone, \$1.00.

In 1860 the DAILY WITNESS was launched, and, like the weekly, to advocate the same principles regardless of cost. The picture "Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me," and the DAILY WITNESS, \$3.25 a year; the paper alone, \$3.00.

The NORTHERN MESSENGER still continues to be the favorite in the home circle and Sabbath school, and commencing with January first with new type, finer paper and other improvements, will be more attractive than ever. Prizes of books are given to friends who canvass for it. Annual subscription, 30c, with reductions to clubs.

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