

THE BATTLE OF CHRYSLER'S FARM.

Thursday, the 11th inst., was the 56th anniversary of the battle of Chrysler's Farm—one of the most important engagements of the war of 1712-13. The site of the Battle field is on the St. Lawrence, in the township of Williamsburg, County of Dundas, and about midway between Kingston and Montreal. The numbers engaged were about four thousand men. The casualties, reported officially, were, on the part of the British, three officers and twenty-one rank and file killed, eight officers and 137 wounded, and twelve missing. Of the Americans three officers and 221 men were wounded. The British force numbered 850 regulars, including the men on the gunboats, a handful of militia and 30 Indians. Of the Americans nearly three thousand took part in the engagement. The action, which began in the morning, lasted till half past four in the afternoon, and was resolutely contested by both combatants. The British held the field and claimed a decisive victory. Under any circumstances, such an engagement cannot be styled otherwise than an important one; its results, however, were still more so. This battle completely frustrated the enemy's plans, which had been skilfully laid, strongly supported, and seemed to be just on the eve of success. Let us for a moment glance at those plans. In April, 1813, York, the capital of Upper Canada, had fallen into the hands of the Americans and an expedition directed against Sackett's Harbour which proved disastrous to the British. In May, Fort George, at the mouth of the Niagara river, was battered to pieces by the American cannon, and the neighbouring town of Newark was laid in ashes. In September, the whole British Squadron had been swept from Lake Erie, and in Upper Canada the British force had been almost annihilated. To complete the conquest of the country, little more remained for the Americans to do but to take possession of Montreal—then as now the commercial capital of the country. It was arranged that General Harrison with 8,000 men should complete the conquest of Upper Canada; Wilkinson with an army of 10,000 strong was to descend the St. Lawrence, unite with the force under General Hampton, near Lake George, and close the campaign by a triumphal entry into Montreal. The progress of this formidable armament was arrested by the gallant Lt.-Col. Morrison of the 89th Regiment, who as soon as it was known that the flotilla conveying Wilkinson's army had passed Kingston, instantly set out in pursuit with the small force above named, overtook the enemy in the township of Matilda, followed him to Williamsburg, and, notwithstanding the fearful odds, at a council of war it was resolved to give him battle. Allison in his history of Europe, thus alludes to the battle:—"The glorious defeat of an invasion so confidently announced, and so strongly supported, diffused the most heartfelt joy in Lower Canada, and terminated the campaign there in the most triumphal manner."

It is now proposed to erect on the spot a suitable monument to commemorate the same. The object is one that should commend itself to everyone whether he loves British connection or favors Canadian Independence. It is alike dear to the heart of everyone who truly loves his country. Had fortune gone against the gallant little band that that day attacked three times their number, Canada might then have been forcibly annexed to the neighbouring republic.

The American army would have been unopposed in its march on Montreal, which doubtless would have fallen into their hands. We consider that it is as worthy of a monument as Queenston Heights—another equally decisive victory. Monuments of this nature serve to imbue into the rising generation a desire of emulating the gallant deeds of their forefathers. By encouraging such a spirit we do more to keep alive a patriotic and military spirit in our citizen soldiers than by the annual expenditure of three times the amount. Mr. James Croil has taken the matter in hand and solicits subscriptions for the same, which will be received of from 10c. upwards and acknowledged through the press. It was Mr. Croil's intention at first to erect a monument at his own expense but it having been suggested to him to make it a national affair, he has issued an appeal to the public. Mr. A. G. McDonnell, Barrister, Morrisburgh, has consented to act as treasurer. The nature of the monument has not yet been decided upon—that depending upon the amount of public aid received—but it will be in the form of an obelisk, rising to the height of about 50 feet, and be erected on the site of the old Chrysler house, which was occupied by Colonel Morrison during the engagement. Subscription Lists will shortly be issued.

SPADE DRILL.

A correspondent of the *Broad Arrow* sends an account of the mode of performing this new field drill in France. He says:—

In the *Instruction sur les tranchées-abris*, the following may be found:—The trenches differ only from those excavated at sieges, in that less time and fewer men are required. The dimensions given are not absolute, but vary according to the nature of the ground. The trench has a depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$, a breadth at top of $4\frac{1}{2}$, and at bottom of $3\frac{1}{2}$. The parapet has a command of 2', is $1\frac{1}{2}$ wide at top, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ at the base. There is a berm of about 9". Men standing in the trench have the lower portion of their body covered, and can of course fire over the crest. By causing the front rank to sit on the berm, and the rear rank either opposite to them or in the trench, cover is nearly obtained. In ordinary ground twenty-five minutes suffice to execute the *tranchées-abris*, and at the Camp St. Maur, in difficult ground, the time taken was only thirty-five minutes.

Supposing the battalion, for whom cover is required to be 600 strong, 200 would be told off as a working party, and whilst these pile arms, take off their packs, &c., the line of the excavation is traced on the ground by an officer with a pickaxe, who, assisted by a non-commissioned officer, then places some men (either bandsmen or drummers) as markers, at intervals of forty rods along the line. The exterior edge being thus shown, the interior edge is traced at a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ from it. This $4\frac{1}{2}$ is the length of a spade and handle. The working party being formed in single rank, the non-commissioned officer distributes the tools. Nos. 1 and 2 receive shovels or spades, No. 3 a pickaxe, Nos. 4 and 5 shovels, No. 6 a pickaxe, and so on. The men then in file are marched on the points, where they form as required. As each man takes up his position, the same non-commissioned officer receives from him his tool. If it is a shovel he places it along the trace, if a pickaxe at right angles to it. These pickaxes thus indicate the position allotted to each three men. The men are allowed to work as they like, the officers and non-commissioned officers taking care

only that the proper form and dimensions of the profile are observed. The berm is made last. The working party, 200 strong, would have 134 shovels and sixty-six pickaxes. These shovels in line would stretch 190 yards—a space sufficient for the front of a battalion 600 strong in two ranks. Allowing 24" per man as with us 200 yards would be required.

OUR NEW IRONCLADS.—The *Globe* publishes a list of 14 iron-plated ships which are now building, or ordered to be built for the Government during the present year. These vessels, at a rough estimate, will cost the country three millions and a half of money. They are, with the single exception of the Captain, built from Mr. Reed's designs. The Captain is built on Captain Coles' principle. Three of the vessels—the Audacious, Invincible and Hotspur—are being built on the Clyde by the Messrs Napier & Sons. The following are particulars of the various ships:—Sultan, 12 guns, 5226 tons; Glatton 2 guns, 2709 tons; Audacious, 14 guns, 3774 tons; Iron Duke, 14 guns, 3774 tons; Vanguard, 14 guns, 3774 tons; Invincible, 14 guns, 3774 tons; Swiftsure, 14 guns, 3893 tons; Triumph, 14 guns, 3893 tons; Captain, 6 guns, 4272 tons; Hotspur, 2 guns, 2637 tons; Rupert 3 guns, 3159 tons; Devastation, 4 guns, 4406 tons; Tunderer 4 guns, 4406 tons.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE VOLUNTEERS.—The *Army and Navy Gazette* says: "It must be remembered that at the present time the regular army is not alone interested in the appointment of one who must be the fountain whence all improvements of the national system of drill and discipline emanate. The Volunteer movement has struck its roots deeply into the body of the people, and the actions of the military authorities are now canvassed by thousands where formerly they were only by tens."

A COLONEL IN THE PULPIT.—Colonel D'Argy of the Antibes Legion, lately returned to Rome from France with copious contributions of men and money for his corps. The colonel's success was promoted by the eloquence with which he pleaded the cause of the Supreme Pontiff, even in the pulpit as at Viviers, where the Abbé Combalot invited him to address the congregation, of whom seventeen young men immediately responded as volunteers to the appeal of the majestic veteran.

The Dominion Government are forwarding bugles for the use of the different Volunteer corps. New clothing is also said to be on its way from England, and, as soon as it arrives, will be served out to the men.

The French Canadians, according to the Quebec papers, are pouring into the Province in all directions from the United States. They have done their usual summer's work, and find the States a good place to emigrate from in the winter.

PRINCE ARTHUR AND THE VOLUNTEERS.—The *Toronto Telegraph* says the officers of the militia and Volunteer companies, who turned out at the various places visited by His Excellency the Governor General and H.R.H. Prince Arthur, on the occasion of their late visit to this Province, have been instructed to furnish a muster roll of those of the men who were then on duty, for the purpose of obtaining two days' pay.