

rendered it well nigh impossible to carry on the government, at length assumed the more serious aspect of open rebellion. In this juncture the courage and judgment of James Cuthbert were again called into action. He was subjected to daily threats and every species of personal danger at his house in Berthier, but he, single-handed, kept that populous county in peace and quiet throughout the whole of this anxious period, and this without recourse to a warrant of arrest or the calling in of military assistance.

The Special Council was composed of gentlemen of the first standing, chosen by the Administrator, from all parts of the province, and of English and French origin in equal numbers. It consisted of twenty-two members. It met for the first time on the 18th April, 1838, when His Excellency named Mr. Cuthbert to preside over its deliberations.

On the 12th November, 1839, the Special Council went into committee of the whole, to take into consideration the momentous question of the reunion of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

It was most undesirable that an important colony which had enjoyed the advantages of a parliament based on that of Great Britain for nearly fifty years should continue longer

feeling in the rebellion and rendered himself unpopular to the French Canadian majority, among whom he lived, but when it was proposed to reunite the provinces he did not take advantage of the position he occupied in the Special Council to retaliate for the treatment he had received during the rebellion, by voting to join the fates of the French Canadians with the English majority in Upper Canada. His views were opposed to this. He leaned to the continuance of the tentative of 1792, and favoured the idea that the future of the province should be worked out by its own inhabitants without legislative aid beyond its limits.

Having lost on the vote for the reunion, the succeeding resolution in favour of a suitable civil list to secure the independence of the judiciary and maintain the government in the exercise of its necessary and indispensable functions, met Mr. Cuthbert's approval. The Hon. James Cuthbert was at this time seventy years of age. He survived for ten years and died at the Manor of Berthier, on the 4th March, 1849, aged eighty. He was buried under the seignorial pew in the Roman Catholic parish church. He had also filled the position of *grand-voyer* of the province. James Cuthbert was twice married. His first wife was Miss Fraser, who

While the Cuthberts can claim from the Lyon King in the old northern capital recognition for feats of prowess in the days of plate armour and chivalry, so can they on this continent advance pretensions to a share in the glories of that honour roll which is dearest to the heart of all whom choice or accident have placed under the flag of the American Republic—the Declaration of Independence. Ross Cuthbert was sent to Philadelphia to pursue his legal studies, and there met and married Emily Rush. She was a daughter of Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration. He was the grandson of an officer in Cromwell's army who settled in America. After studying at Philadelphia, young Rush went to Europe in 1766, and continued his medical studies under the best masters in London and Paris. His diploma as M.D. was granted him in Edinburgh. True to the views of his ancestor, in the days of the Protectorate, on his return to America Dr. Rush at once espoused the cause of the colonies. He was able, accomplished, polished and kind, and displayed in the great epidemic, at Philadelphia, in 1793, the highest devotion to duty as a medical man. Mrs. Ross Cuthbert's brother, Richard Rush, was minister from the United States to England from 1817 to 1820.



THE BERTHIER MANOR HOUSE—VIEW FROM RIVER.

than absolutely necessary under the temporary guidance of a single body, however excellent in its composition, which was not elected by the people.

Mutual concessions might be needed and some sacrifices required to be made, and it was proposed to reunite the future fates of the Upper and Lower Provinces in parliament. The rebellion was nearly over.

The enemies of the Special Council have asserted that it was composed of gentlemen prepared to accede to the propositions to be laid before it by the representative of Her Majesty. This view, whatever general measure of truth the assertion contained, and which, perhaps, the exigencies of the time rendered a necessity, did not apply to Mr. Cuthbert. His views must have been known before his nomination. On the 13th November he was one of those who voted in the negative to the proposition that the reunion of the provinces under one legislature was, in the opinion of the Council, an indispensable and urgent necessity. Born in the country, Mr. Cuthbert had not hesitated to risk his life and employ his means to defend the soil against a foreign enemy in the American war. He had remained British in

died on the 10th January, 1811, at Montreal, where she was temporarily buried, aged thirty-two. Her remains were subsequently removed to Berthier. His second wife was Miss Louise A. Cairns; she was his mother's niece, by whom he had four sons and two daughters. J. C. and Arthur died unmarried; Charles Alfred was a lieutenant in the 65th Regiment and died in 1866; Edward Octavian we shall speak of later. Fannie married Pierre Levesque, of Montreal, who survives her. Julia married Capt. Stewart, of the 71st Highland Light Infantry, and subsequently of the Royal Canadian Rifles. He is now Sir Simeon Stewart.

The Hon. Ross Cuthbert, the second son of James Cuthbert, of the 15th Regiment, like his brother James, entered the Provincial Parliament early in life. He likewise sat for the County of Warwick in four successive parliaments, from 1801 to 1810. He was returned to the eighth parliament in 1815 and 1816. He was living in London in 1817. He was also a member of the tenth parliament in 1820. Ross Cuthbert was also a member of the Executive Council, and in 1814 we find him supporting Chief Justice Sewell against the accusations of the popular branch of the Legislature.

Ross Cuthbert was a superior and well educated man. His later years were spent in great seclusion. Few persons saw him. He had become despondent and moody. He had no lack of means, but public life had disappointed him. The Ross Cuthbert branch of the family are Anglicans. His children by Miss Rush were three in number—Georgina, who married A. O. Bostwick, Q.C., and had three children, John, Mary and Georgina. Mary, who lived to an advanced age and died unmarried at Berthier a few years since, was much beloved, and her charities are well known. The third son of Ross Cuthbert, James C., married Miss Stephens, and their son Edmund, a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, died from the effects of a sunstroke in the Crimea. The last seigneur of Berthier, Edward Octavian Cuthbert, already referred to, was born at the Manor House, on the 3rd of December, 1826. He was educated at the College of Chambly. In December, 1853, he married his cousin Miss Mary Bostwick, granddaughter of Ross Cuthbert and Emily Rush. He also entered political life, and represented his native county in the House of Commons of Canada for twelve years, from 1875 to 1887, when declining health precluded