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ST. EUSTACHE

SOME INCIDENTS OF ITS DEFENCE AND ITS DEFENDERS IN 1837

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Joe Papineau, my jo, Joe,
When first I saw your face,
I thought you rather spunky,
And a lad of soul and grace;
But now you've turned a scamp, Joe,
And your fame is rather low,
You're nothing but a "Patriot",
Joe Papineau, my jo.

—Parody of the time.



THE parishes to the north of Montreal had been for some time prior to the outbreak of the Rebellion of '37 centres of political agitation and disaffection, the chief leaders being Messrs. Scott and Girouard, who were, or had been, members of the Legislative Assembly, and Father Chartier, Curé of St. Benoit. But Amury Girod, a Swiss adventurer who made a specialty of revolutions, and Dr. Chenier, a medical man of St. Eustache, soon came to the front as the principal leaders in that district, and the latter is the only figure that approaches the heroic among all their commanders.

It was at St. Eustache that the rebels elected to mobilize most of the

forces they were able to draw from the district roughly represented by the present county of Two Mountains, and parts of the counties of Terrebonne and Laval. This they commenced to do on learning of the mobilizations south of the St. Lawrence, so that, within the three weeks which elapsed between the discomfiture of the rebels in the Richelieu district, and their own defeat, they had assembled a considerable force, and were committing depredations that called for speedy punishment, and gathering strength that necessitated early dispersal.

They refused to believe the news of the defeat of rebels at other points and persisted in their depredations. Though provisioning their army by commandeering whatever they required, it is likely that such supplies were speedily consumed, and that they accumulated no great reserve either of food or ammunition. The habitants attacked with good appetite the pork, beef, potatoes and buckwheat pancakes furnished at other people's ex-