

## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 37.—LT.-COL. OSBORNE SMITH, D. A. G.

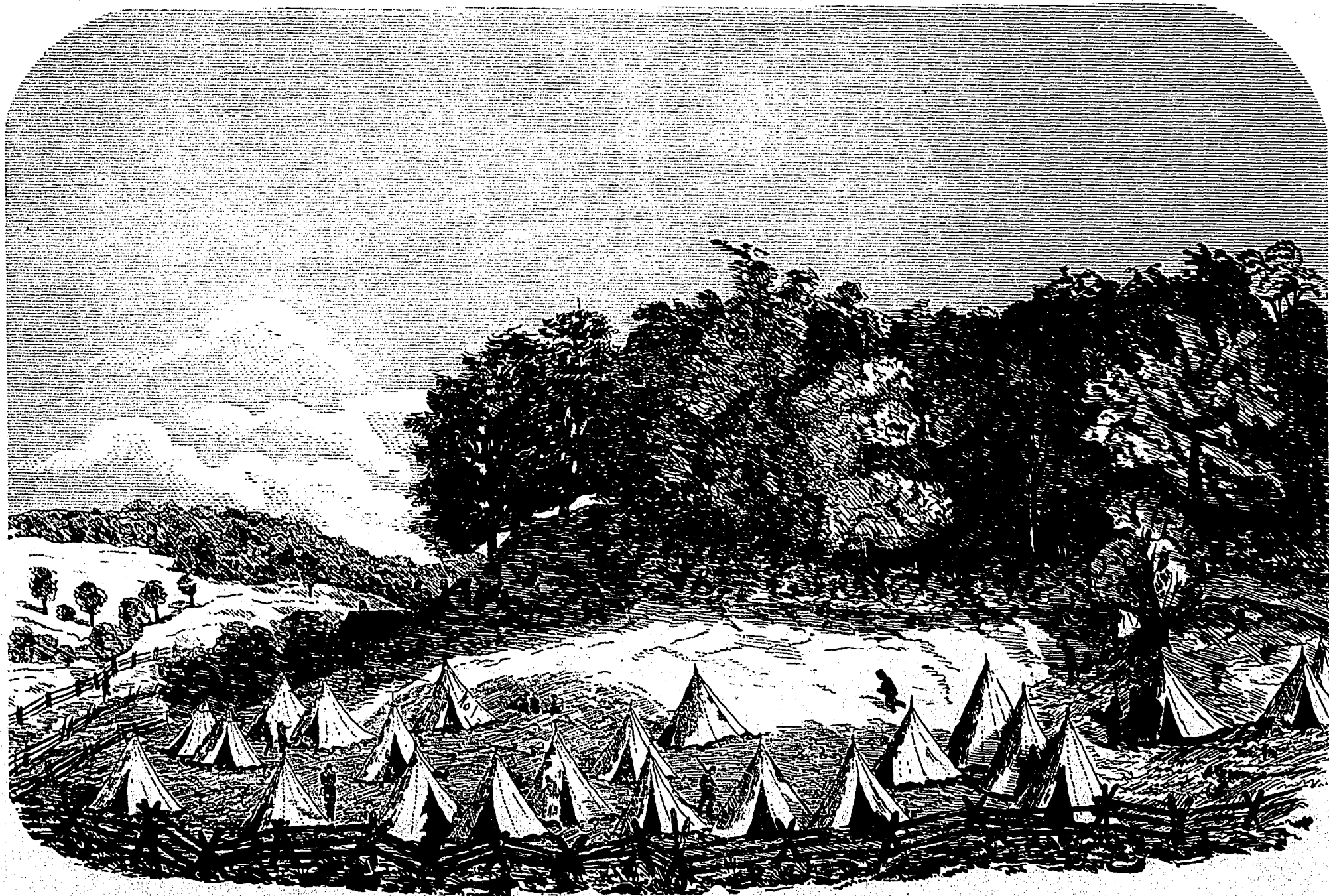
Lieut.-Colonel Osborne Smith, Deputy Adjutant-General of Militia, is one of the many gentlemen who, belonging at first to the British army, have subsequently made Canada their home and done so much towards the fostering of a military spirit among our people, and the organization of our splendid Volunteer force. He came to this country with his regiment, the 39th Foot, direct from the Crimea in 1856, in which corps he held the rank of Lieutenant. In 1859, having married, he retired from the service and settled in this country, embarking in commercial pursuits in the grain trade and shipping. In 1861, at the time of the famous "Trent" affair, when the whole country was in a blaze of military enthusiasm, and expecting any day a declaration of war between the United States and Great Britain, he organized from a number of young men in this city who volunteered for service the since well-known and gallant "Victoria Rifles," the command of which he held until 1866. In December, 1864, on account of the border troubles excited by Southern refugees during the American war, the Government took prompt measures to keep the peace on the American frontier, and Lt.-Colonel Smith was suddenly ordered to take command on the Western frontier of a number of Volunteer Militia companies and organize them into a provisional battalion for the defence of the frontier and the suppression of raids from Canada on the United States planned by the Southerners or their Northern American sympathisers. What a wonder our neighbours cannot imitate this example with respect to the Fenians! This service extended over six months and earned for Col. Smith the highest testimonials from the Government, and from Lieut.-General Sir W.F. Williams, the hero of Kars, then



LT.-COL. OSBORNE SMITH, D. A. G. From a photograph by Notman.

in chief command here. Addresses from various Municipalities within the district under him were also presented the Colonel on his leaving the command. In 1865 Col. Macdougall, late Adjutant-General of Canada, to whose genius and energy so much is owing for the organization of our Militia, had just entered upon his duties, and in the autumn offered Col. Smith the office of Assistant Adjutant-General of Militia. He was then in charge of a battalion of cadets at Laprairie in a camp of instruction under Col. Wolsely. He accepted the proffered office and was immediately afterwards entrusted with the duty of raising and organizing the Southern Frontier Force, now a magnificent body of over three thousand men, though then consisting of a few fine but scattered companies. Next year, during the turn-out to repel the Fenian raid of June, 1866, he was entrusted with a brigade for the defence of the Huntingdon Frontier, and was fortunate enough to protect every inch of his command without loss. At that time Gen. Lindsay, then in command here, spoke in the highest terms of Col. Smith's efficiency, and recalled the circumstance in his speech to the volunteers at Eccles camp the other day. When the militia force was reorganised under the new militia law for the Dominion, Col. Smith was appointed one of the Deputies Adjutant-General, retaining his old district.

In the late raid on the southern frontier, not only Col. Smith himself, but the whole body of volunteers in his district won new laurels, which will long remain fresh in the memory of the Canadian people. In the operations which proved so successful both under Col. Smith's and Col. Bagot's commands, the former at Eccles Hill, and the latter at Trout River, not a militiaman was employed who did not belong to Col. Smith's district. The result speaks well for the soldierly efficiency acquired. In our last



VOLUNTEER CAMP AT ECCLES HILL. From a sketch by A. Vogt.—SEE PAGE 493.