

a regiment; but in 1812 he raised and obtained command of a body of 600 men which, under the name of the New Brunswick Fencibles, served to protect the province during the absence of the 104th Regiment in Upper Canada. Prior to 1829 he made several visits to England, always returning to the Province with the spring. He had ten children, of whom eight lived to maturity, his eldest son dying in 1856, a General in the Royal Artillery, and two of his sons having attained in the Royal Navy, one to the rank of Admiral, the other to that of Vice-Admiral.

Sabine, in "Notes on Duels and Duelling," states that in a duel between Colonel Campbell, of the British service, and Major Coffin, at New York, in 1783, the latter was wounded in the groin.¹ In the same work a cartel from the latter forwarded and addressed in 1818 to Robert Parker, Comptroller of Customs, Saint John, N. B., is set out as follows:

"SIR,—I have the honour to communicate the following note received from your son Nevil last Sunday morning. I am not in the habit of entertaining young gentlemen at this *inconvenient place*. But, sir, *harboring no vindictive resentment against you*, and our ages being more equal, if you will attend me upon a party of pleasure to Moose Island I shall be very happy to entertain you. I regret very much that I cannot offer you a passage in the schooner Martin, as she is at present out of commission.

"I have the honour to be, sir, with the utmost consideration,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"JOHN COFFIN."

It is interesting to note that Robert Parker's son,ⁱ to whom the writer of the above refers, was the late Honorable Neville Parker, Master of the Rolls, and brother of the late Chief Justice Parker.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned, as an instance of the General's strength and courage, that on one occasion when proceeding in a whale boat to Saint John from the manor, with his youngest daughter, six or eight years of age, and a boatman, he attacked and killed a bear which had taken to the river to escape its pursuers, the only weapons being an oar and the sprit or boom of the sail.

¹ On February 25th, 1797, a duel was fought near Fredericton between Col. John Coffin and James Gleine, in which the latter was slightly wounded. The *St. John Gazette*, commenting on the incident, says: "The contending parties on this occasion behaved in every point with the strictest honour and distinguished themselves as gentlemen and men of valour."