

At the first meeting, a subscription, to be renewed annually, during the war, as circumstances might admit, amounted in some instances to a tenth part of the income of the subscribers. This example was followed in several Districts of Canada; and the Cities of Montreal and Quebec, most liberally seconded the views of the Society. Its object was no sooner known in London, England, than a subscription was opened by Lieut. Gov. Gore, encouraged by the countenance and patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, who was pleased to preside at a meeting held at the City of London Tavern. A liberal subscription from individuals in the Island of Jamaica, made a large addition to the means of the Society, and, altogether, its funds were so augmented, as to induce the Committee of Directors to forbear any further call on the annual subscribers.

The meeting at which the Society was formed was held at York on Tuesday, 15th December, 1812, the chairman being the Hon. Chief Justice Scott.

At this meeting a Board of Directors was appointed, on which appears the names of Hon. Wm. Campbell, Rev. Dr. Strachan (Bishop), Mr. Dummer Powell (Chief Justice), Hon. J. B. Robinson, and others well known in history. The objects of the Society was to afford aid and relief to such families of the militia, in all parts of the Province, as appeared to experience particular distress in consequence of the death or absence of their friends employed in defence of the Province; also to such militia man as had been disabled from labor by wounds received in service. It was also part of the plan to reward merit, excite emulation, and commemorate glorious exploits, by bestowing medals or other honorary marks of public approbation and distinction for extraordinary instances of personal courage or fidelity in defence of the Province by individuals, either of the regular or militia forces, or seamen.

One hundred pounds were first voted to "procure as many