

the United States or taken thither by Loyalists, who found their way back to former homes after a few years' residence in the British provinces. Descendants of some of the former slaves are yet to be found in Nova Scotia; they are probably more numerous in New Brunswick. A large proportion of the present colored population of the Maritime Provinces are descendants of slaves released from American owners during the war of 1812, and brought northward on English warships: the majority of the colored people of the upper provinces are the children or grandchildren of fugitive slaves, who crossed the Canadian boundary line in search of liberty during the first sixty years of the now closing century.

The story of the "Underground Railroad," as the various pathways of the escaping slave, all ending at the Canadian border, were called, is a thrilling one. It cannot be told here. It is sufficient to say that it is estimated that, previous to the close of the American civil war, not less than 30,000 escaped slaves had found an asylum in Canada. Again and again the American authorities sought by appeals to the British government to secure some treaty compelling Canadian officials to return escaping slaves, but all such efforts were vain. When once the hunted fugitive had "shook de lion's paw," as a colored rescuer aptly phrased it one day, the power of Britain stood between the fugitive and his baffled pursuer.¹

THE COMBAT AT THE MILL ON LACOLLE.²

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL E. CRUIKSHANK.

Two days after his check at Chrysler's Farm, General Wilkinson retired with his army of eight thousand combatants to the French Mills on the Salmon river, and about the same time General Hampton retreated from the Chateaugay to Plattsburg. The presence of so large a force on the frontiers of Lower Canada rendered it necessary to retain a greater body of troops in the vicinity of Montreal than had been anticipated, to protect that town from a sudden raid during the winter. Between Cornwall and Quebec, fully ten thousand men were

¹This subject of slavery is treated more at length in the monograph of the author on "The Slave in Canada," published as Vol. X. of "Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society."

²Near Isle aux Noix on the Richelieu. An event of the War of 1812.