

on a grand scale in and about Toronto have not been uncommon in modern times, exciting the enthusiasm of the multitude that usually assembles on such occasions. But in no way inferior in point of interest to the unsophisticated youthful eye, half a century ago, unaccustomed to anything more elaborate, were those motley musterings of the militia companies. The costume of the men may have been various, the fire arms only partially distributed, and those that were to be had not of the brightest hue, nor of the most scientific make, the lines may not always have been perfectly straight, nor their constituents well matched in height. . . . Nevertheless, as a military spectacle, these gatherings and manoeuvres on the grassy bank here, were effective; they were always anticipated with pleasure and contemplated with satisfaction. The officers, on these occasions, some of them mounted, were arrayed in uniforms of antique cut; in red coats with wide black breast lappets and broad tail flaps; high collars, tight sleeves and large cuffs; on the head a black hat, the ordinary high-crowned civilian hat, with a cylindrical feather some eighteen inches inserted at the top, not in front, but at the left side (whalebone surrounded with feathers from the barnyard, scarlet at the base, white above). Animation was added to the scene by a drum and a few fifes executing with liveliness 'The York Quickstep,' 'The Reconciliation,' and 'The British Grenadiers.' And then, in addition to the local cavalry corps, there were the clattering scabbards, the blue jackets and bear-skin helmets of Captain Button's Dragoons, from Markham and Whitechurch.

"Numerously, in the rank and file at these musterings—as well as among the officers, commissioned and non-commissioned—were to be seen men who had quite recently jeopardized their lives in the defence of the country. At the period we are speaking of, only some six or seven years had elapsed since an invasion of Canada from the south. 'The late war,' for a long while, very naturally formed a fixed point in local chronology, from which times and seasons were calculated; a fixed point, however, which to the newcomer, and even to the indigenous, who, when 'the late war' was in progress, were not in bodily existence, seemed already to belong to a remote past. An impression of the miseries of war, derived from the talk of those who had actually felt them, was very strongly stamped in the minds of the rising generation; an impression accompanied also at the same time with the uncomfortable persuasion derived from the same source, that another conflict was inevitable in due time. The musterings on 'Training-day' were thus invested with interest and importance in the minds of those who were summoned to appear on these occasions—as also in the minds of the boyish looker-on, who was aware that 'ere long he would himself be required by law to turn out and take his part in the annual militia evolutions, and perhaps afterwards, possibly at no distant hour, to handle the musket or wield the sword in earnest."

During the session of 1822, the second session of the eighth Parliament of Upper Canada, an Act of a temporary character affecting the militia was passed. This Act (Chapter III., 2 George IV.), provided certain amendments to the Act of 1808, among other changes being the substitution of April 23rd (St. George's Day, and the King's birthday), as the date for training day, instead of June 4th, as heretofore. This Act of 1822 was in operation for only four years, expiring naturally by lapse of time, and the original Act of 1808 (Chapter I., 48 George III.), came into force again.

There appears to have been something of the nature of a revival of interest in militia matters this year (1822), and Colonel Chewett, who was still in command of the 1st West York Regiment of militia, decided to avail himself of the provisions of clause 31 of the Act of 1808, as renewed in the Act of 1822, to establish a troop of cavalry in his regimental district in connec-