

AN HISTORIC CANADIAN FAMILY.

THE CUTHBERTS OF BERTHIER

(Continued from page 112.)

The career of James Cuthbert the second was stopped in the line of promotion in the regular service by the resignation of his commission in the 60th. He may have been personally the loser, but the country undoubtedly was the gainer by it. Such men were wanted in Canada at this time. In 1807 the military needs of England depleted this country of regular troops. A very small force was in Canada. The political horizon towards the United States was filling with dark clouds. Preparation were actively going on which could have no other meaning than hostile. Cuthbert was equal to the emergency. He belonged to a race of soldiers. By way of example, and to increase the

"His Excellency is exceedingly pleased to find a principle in some measure established by your individual exertions, the basis of which he means to pursue in forming an extensive and, he trusts, an efficient system of defence, &c."

"As you have been the first to set such a laudable example, Sir James thinks it but just that Berthier should take the lead in any new project he may adopt, and he desires me to ask your opinion in regard to the following points. Being in some measure pledged for the success of the experiment, I shall be under considerable anxiety until I hear your sentiments."

"tional instance can in no degree aid to keep alive the fixed sentiments of regard I entertain for you."

These two men were drawn towards each other not only by a common love for the Empire and a keen sense of the duty they owed to it, sentiments, the practice of which cost Brock his life a few years later, but their inner natures responded to the same chords of sympathy.

The war continued—more men were required. Montreal was menaced from the south and west. General Hampton was encamped near Plattsburg in command of the best equipped army the Americans placed in the field during the war. General Wilkinson had nearly ten thousand men on Grenadier Island. Both bodies commenced to move on Montreal; the moment was critical; success to the Americans would have cut Canada in two. The commander of the forces issued a proclamation, calling for the exertions of the people. James Cuthbert was sent to Berthier to organize from the sedentary militia another battalion for general defence. How well he accomplished this is testified by the fact that within eight days after this order was placed in his hands he had repaired to Berthier and returned to Montreal at the head of one thousand additional men, received their



THE BERTHIER MANOR HOUSE—VIEW FROM GROVE.

available forces, he raised, uniformed and organized, at his own expense, a body of Canadian volunteers, pledged to serve in any part of the province with His Majesty's forces, and subject to military law.

The war of 1812 came. Cuthbert was induced to take the command of the 3rd Battalion of the select and embodied militia. He organized and drilled this corps and served with them on the frontier, brigaded with part of the 49th and 100th regiments, under the command of Colonel John Murray, the Inspecting Field Officer of Militia.

One cannot mention the 49th without reverting to its gallant commanding officer.

Let us see in what strain Brock wrote to Cuthbert :

QUEBEC, Oct. 12, 1807.

"You may well suppose that the principal subject of conversation at headquarters is the military state of the country. I have been careful, in justice to you, to mention to Sir James Craig the public spirit you have manifested in forming a company, without the least pecuniary aid or assistance from the Government.

This from the hero of Queenston Heights is no small meed of praise.

Later in the same year the Governor, Sir James Henry Craig, an experienced soldier, writes : "Mr. Cuthbert is requested to take every measure for keeping up the spirit of his people have hitherto manifested, and he may assure them the Governor will not be ungrateful of it."

Brock again writes :

MONTREAL, July 7, 1808.

"Be assured the General has very substantial reasons for objecting to any issue of arms at this time. Were your corps the sole consideration, be satisfied he would not hesitate a moment; but he cannot show you such marked preference without exciting a degree of jealousy and outcry, &c."

Witness the friendship and respect between Brock and Cuthbert. The former adds : "I am sorry you have deprived yourself of the very handsome dagger your partiality induced you to send me. No such proof was required to convince me of your friendship, and this addi-

arms and ammunition, and was at the post assigned to him. Chrystler's Farm and Chateaugay were won. The laurels were divided with the Niagara district and Montreal was saved.

James Cuthbert did not limit the services he rendered to his country to those for its defence. Few men had a longer record in its political councils. He represented the County of Warwick, in which his property was situated, in six consecutive Provincial Parliaments, for eighteen years, from 1797 to 1815. In 1812 he was, in addition, called to the Legislative Council, where his voice and experience were ever at the command of the public for the extended period of twenty-six years, sitting in that body until 1838, when the constitution was suspended and a new legislative body, the Special Council, substituted to govern the province. At this date James Cuthbert was third in seniority in the Legislative Council, Chief Justice Sewell and John Hale alone having seniority, the former having been nominated in 1809, and the latter in 1810.

The political storms which, for a number of years, had very seriously agitated the council chambers at Quebec, and