

the too flattering manner in which you have spoken of them. However much a just knowledge of my own merits might tempt me to deprecate your praise, or disown the merit which you attribute to my conduct, I cannot fail to be profoundly gratified at the kindness which has prompted this presentation. I only did my duty as hundreds of others did theirs, as hundreds of thousands of Canadians would have done it, if the happy chance which fell to my lot had been afforded to them; and I accept this gift from my Ottawa friends as I accept the decoration which His Excellency the Governor General was so good as to recommend and our most Gracious Majesty was pleased to confer on me, not as won by me, but by the officers and men whom I was so fortunate as to command, together with the farmers of the county which I then represented, and who formed more than a third of my force. As their representative, and on their behalf, I venture to receive both.

If we did our duty zealously we had every incentive to do it. All were defending their homes—many, myself among the number, their birthplaces, their families, and the graves of their kindred from pollution. We had seen our fair frontier ravaged once before by a portion of this same horde of cut-throats. We resolved, if permitted—and the government and military authorities acquiesced in that course—to meet them next time at the very boundary line. Success there secured immunity for all the country behind us, as well as for our own homes. Providence vouchsafed us victory.

For myself, I feel that no feat of arms was ever more generously appreciated, or more amply rewarded. The safety of my home, the approval of my own immediate chief, (Col. Smith, to whose wise plans and advice so much was due), the thanks and congratulations of the gallant General in command of the troops, and of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, who had become our comrade in arms, were more than enough to repay me for all that I had done. That His Excellency and the General who could best judge my work, should have recommended me for decoration, and Her Majesty should have deigned to confer it; that my new neighbours in Ottawa—among whom I am glad to reckon old friends—should so mark their good will and that Her Majesty's representative should deign to grace the occasion with his presence and approval, makes my rewards profuse which were ample before.

I am glad you appreciate as I do the spirit which has prompted the Imperial Government in its kindness towards myself and my brother officers. The loyalty of Canadians needed no stimulant; but these and other like acts, and the recent utterance of the public men of the mother country may serve to dispel some doubts and relieve some anxieties. I accept the beautiful sword you offer me, as a gift from loyal men, and I will take care that if ever it is used in battle, it shall be for the defence of the British crown and the integrity of the British Empire, for which we all fervently pray.

After the reply, His Worship the Mayor hand the sword to His Excellency, who, in presenting it to the gallant Colonel, spoke as follows:

His Excellency stated that he took part in the proceedings of the day at the instance and request of the subscribers to the testimonial, who might with all propriety be considered as representing the general feeling of the country. He had pleasure in being the medium of conveying their gift to

its meritorious recipient, as he had the pleasure ten days ago, at Montreal, in being the medium of conveying marks of the Royal favor to four gallant officers, of whom Col. Chamberlin was one. His fellow countrymen present this Sword of Honor to Colonel Chamberlin in token of respect and admiration for the high qualities he displayed, and the good fortune which attended him on a day which would remain memorable in the annals of the Dominion of Canada, for in it were crushed, and, it may be hoped, crushed for ever, the wild hopes and wicked designs of the hordes of what Col. Chamberlin has properly called cut-throats, who had so long threatened invasion and kept the country in suspense. They had certainly made formidable preparations, collected large stores of ammunition, provisions and uniforms, as well as cannon, and over twenty thousand rifles. Numbers of deluded persons were ready to take part with them, aid on the move, in consequence of reports circulated as to their strength and the certainty of their march to easy victory. Any success, however small or transient, their establishing themselves on Canadian soil for any short time, would have brought multitudes to their aid, and probably caused much bloodshed and led to serious complications. All these prospects of evil were dissipated by the promptitude with which the militia and Volunteers flew to arms, the skill with which they were handled, and the steadiness which they displayed under fire. They showed themselves equal to the occasion, and more than a match for their assailants, who have had a lesson as to the stout resistance that awaits them. They have found a Lion in their ill-chosen path and have probably prudently relinquished their vain imaginations as to the conquest of Canada. The repulse of the piratical bands, and the spirit shown by our Militia Volunteers, and their proved ability to defend the country against any similar attempts, have produced a general feeling and assurance of security, which finds its natural expression in such a testimonial as that now offered to Col. Chamberlin.

His Excellency then handed the sword to the gallant Col. Chamberlin with these words—

"Colonel Chamberlin, I have, on behalf of the subscribers, much pleasure in presenting you with this sword. May you live many years to look upon it with rejoicing and eventually hand it down as an heirloom and animating record to your descendants. May you enjoy your trophy in health and comfort. We all breathe the wish very earnestly as the best possible for you and the country—may you never have occasion to draw it in civil strife or against foreign enemies."

His Excellency then shook hands with the Colonel and retired.

The sword is a most beautiful and serviceable weapon, reflecting great credit upon its maker, Wilkinson, of London. As it lay exposed to view on the Clerk of the Senate's table, it was greatly admired by all those present.

#### LUNCH AT THE RIDEAU CLUB.

After the ceremony was over Colonel Chamberlin entertained the Chairman and members of the Presentation Committee and a few other friends to an *impromptu* champagne lunch at the Rideau Club.

After the toast of the "Queen" had been duly honored, Colonel Chamberlin proposed the "Presentation Committee," and in doing so expressed his sense of the services of every member of it.

The Mayor replied, and in response to repeated calls, also Messrs. Gibb and Morgan.

Several other toasts were drunk including the "Heroes of the War of 1812," and "Mrs. Chamberlin."

The latter, proposed by the Mayor, which was as a matter of course received with three times three. Mr. R. S. M. Bouchette made a very felicitous speech in alluding to the fact that after the war of 1812, a sword of honor was subscribed for by the inhabitants of Quebec and presented to Lieut. Rolette, an officer of the Provincial Navy, who achieved a brilliant victory over the enemy on the upper lake. The sword referred to is now in the possession of the Honorable the Minister of Militia and Defence.

The last toast proposed was "Col. Chamberlin—long life to him."

The gallant Colonel in replying took little merit to himself for the success of the engagement at Eccles' Hill, which he said was due to the energy, pluck and endurance of the brave fellows whom he had the high honor to command on that occasion. A very pleasant gathering was brought to a close at six o'clock.

We notice that several of our contemporaries have alluded to rumoured contemplated changes in the Militia system of the country, but on what grounds they base their suppositions for these changes we are not informed. We are not aware that the Militia Authorities have given any intimation of the changes spoken of by our contemporaries. No doubt some change is desirable, and we agree with the proposition that if the corps of active Militia were required to perform 16 days drill in camp, the result would be most beneficial and would be worth very much more than the cost of rations and pay that would be required. It is a question as to how far the individual pursuits of the country can be interfered with, as well as a question of direct additional expenditure, it will be well therefore to have the matter fairly considered. The additional cost of rationing 40,000 men in camp would amount, at say 20 cents per man, per day, for 16 days, to \$128,000. The proposition to give officers the pay of their rank is a fair one. The present system of drill in brigade camps has worked well, but as the corps are scattered it is a question as to whether, for another year at least, it would be wise to attempt the concentration of a greater number of men in camp than can be brought together without undue sacrifice on the part of the men. As to the adoption of the Prussian military system in Canada, which is based on the assumption that every man capable of bearing arms should do so, is unsuitable to this country; and so long as the country voluntarily supply the required number of men (40,000) necessary to meet the requirements of the Militia law, the draft ought not to be resorted to. It is not to be supposed that the present men composing our Volunteer force will always remain in the ranks, they will retire and others will be found ready and willing to take their place—and thus in the