

tish soldiers who composed the New York Regiment under Sir John Johnson, when peace was proclaimed, accepted the offer of the British Government and settled on lands granted to them in Canada. These warriors were the pioneer settlers in the counties of Stormont and Dundas. They and their children, mostly Protestants, were reinforced within a few years, by an influx of Roman Catholic Highlanders, who chiefly took up their abode in the adjacent county of Glengarry. Together, these sturdy Scotchmen have proved themselves to be a valuable class of settlers, steadfast in retaining the language and customs of their forefathers, but no less devoted to the British Crown, and ready at any moment to risk life and property for their faith and fealty.

Within thirty years of their expatriation, events occurred which tested the willingness and capability of the British Canadians to fight in defence of their new homes and of the flag they loved so well. The War of 1812-15 broke out between England and the United States. Upper Canada was the principal battle-ground of this conflict. Meanwhile its population had increased to about one hundred thousand souls. The inhabitants eagerly responded to the call of the Government to organize and protect the frontiers of the Province from the assaults of the enemy. The story of their gallant and successful resistance of the invaders is too well known to need repetition. Suffice it to say that, with the help of a few hundred British troops, Upper Canada repelled the large armies of the Americans. Throughout the campaigns of this war, which lasted over three years, the forces of the United States were tenfold greater than the number of the Canadian soldiery. The Provincial militia, it need scarcely be said, was mainly composed of the sons of U. E. Loyalists, and their courage and endurance shewed that they were worthy scions of a noble race.

The spirit which animated the Canadian militia during this unequal conflict, is apparent in the Address of the Lieutenant-Governor, General Brock, to the Upper Canada Legislature, at the opening of the war, in 1812; and in the patriotic reply of the Assembly to his eloquent appeal. Brock concluded his speech in these stirring words:—'We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and dispatch in our councils, and by vigour in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson, that a country defended by Free Men, enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, cannot be conquered.' The answer of the Assembly was couched in the same vein of fervent loyalty and lofty patriotism. These admirable documents were widely circulated throughout the Province, and contributed materially to stimulate and strengthen the people to face with intrepidity the impending struggle.

In Lower Canada, a similar attachment to the Crown and Government of Great Britain was displayed. The French Canadian *habitans* vied with their Anglo-Saxon brethren in loyalty and deeds of valour. It was by the joint efforts of both nationalities that Canada was preserved to the Empire. This must never be forgotten, and the hearty co-operation of all Canadians in a common cause at this trying time will, it is to be hoped, be a pledge of enduring fraternity in the future. But our present purpose is to trace the fortunes of the U. E. Loyalists and their descendants in British America, and to note the influence of their conduct and character upon the present generation of Upper Canadians.

In less than a quarter of a century from the close of the American war, another occasion presented itself for proving the sincerity of the attachment of Upper Canada to the British Crown. Agitating political questions were rife in the Province. They begat a wide spread desire for a more

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