

CHAPTER V.

The ten years of the history of Upper Canada between 1796 and 1806 do not offer any great field for comment. Indeed, our information regarding these years is less satisfactory than that of any other period. The fact is to some extent explicable by the changes in the head of the government, and the absence of private papers which are invaluable from the light they often throw on hidden motives and the occasional misrepresentations concerning men high in station. After the departure of Simcoe, Mr. Peter Russell became the administrator until the arrival of general Hunter as lieutenant-governor, in August, 1799. On his death, in August, 1805, Mr. Grant acted as administrator until sir Francis Gore took possession of the government in August, 1806.*

Peter Russell was originally in the army. He describes

* Mr. Russell's papers passed to his sister, Miss Elizabeth Russell; at her death they were left to the Baldwin family. Mr. Robert Baldwin, the distinguished liberal leader of half a century back, kept them in careful preservation. He died in 1858. Some short period afterwards these papers were deliberately burned. There can be little doubt that this act of vandalism was committed.

Mr. Grant's papers are likewise not to be found. They might possibly prove of little importance, as he was informed of Gore's appointment a few months after his entering upon his position as administrator.

Of general Hunter little is known, save the few words to his memory in the cathedral at Quebec; that he died on the 21st of August, 1805, aged 59. The epitaph states that the tablet is a memorial to a brother by John Hunter, M.D., of London. It has been assumed that his brother was the celebrated surgeon. Such, however, was not the case; a fact established by the investigations of lieutenant-governor Beverley Robinson of Ontario.

We are all familiar with the admirable series of portraits of the lieutenant-governors in government house, Toronto, the possession of which we owe to the energy and good taste of Mr. Robinson, when holding the position. They are copies of authentic family portraits, obtained by a long correspondence