

REMINISCENCES OF THE BATTLE OF CHIPPEWA.

To the Editor of the Gazette.

Sir,—You gave an extract in your issue of the 7th instant, from Harper's Magazine, relative to the escape from capture of General Scott on the morning of the battle of Chippewa. It may be very interesting, but it is entirely void of truth. It appears to have been related by General Scott to Thurlow Weed, "after a brief but impressive silence," for the third time only in his life.

Having been at the battle of Chippewa, I was in a position to know what happened before, at, and after the action. The General says, "we encamped for the night, our army occupying the west, while the enemy was encamped on the east side of Street's Creek," leaving it to be inferred that the armies were in juxtaposition, whereas our army had not the luxury of a tent during the whole war, and occupied the village of Chippewa, three miles east of Street's Creek, on the night of the 4th July, 1814. "After our tents had been pitched," continues the General, "I received a letter from a lady who occupied a mansion on the opposite side of the Creek, stating that General Riall had placed a sentinel before her door, and requested that I would place one on the bridge." We all know that the first thing done on arriving at the place of an encampment is to send out pickets and place the sentinels. It strikes me as being rather singular that no sentinel was placed on this bridge, affording the only passage from one army to the other until requested by this lady. We had our advance thrown out about half a mile south of Chippewa bridge, and the advance of the enemy was within ear-shot of it the whole night. There could not therefore have been any Indians or red coats near Street Creek at the hour of breakfast on the morning of the 5th July. In truth there was not an Indian on the south of Chippewa Creek until we marched out at four o'clock p.m., to the attack; when they undertook to clear the enemy's riflemen from the woods on the right of our line of march to the battle ground in the neighborhood of Street's Creek.

The compliance with the lady's request about "the sentry on the bridge" brought the General and his aids an invitation to breakfast, "which had been prepared with considerable attention." Is it probable that the lady would boast of her intended coffee and hot rolls; however we find the General "acting upon an impulse which he had never been able to analyse or comprehend," replying with his aids Watts and Worth to the Mansion, "where breakfast awaited us; the young lady was even seated at the coffee urns, and immediately served it out, the hostess asking to be excused, retired." One might ask what had become of the sentinel placed by General Riall before her door? but let that pass. The breakfast was on the table before their arrival; this does not look like an attempt to betray. The introduction of the edibles would have been deferred, one would think, till the lady could bring up her Indians and red coats, and it is not probable that they would advance from opposite directions, where they could be seen from the window. Thanks to the General's "long legs," so well applied according to Chesterfield's advice, he escaped unhurt. He now moralizes on the indiscretion of accepting "this invitation," and declares "that if any disaster resulted from it, he richly deserved to lose both his commission and character." The General had "saved his bacon," what injury could result? All this bosh is to give probability point and effect to the fiction,

while it furnishes internal evidence of its untruthfulness. Fortunately, he continues, "my presence and services in the field were not required." Generals Porter and Ripley had been engaged at intervals for several hours, so that when my brigade and Towson's artillery were ordered to cross Street's Creek my nerves and confidence had become measurably restored.

The action did not last more than one hour. When we advanced from Chippewa we found the enemy at Street's Creek in position and ready to receive us; there had been a little skirmishing between the American riflemen and the Indians a short time previous to our attack, and Towson's artillery was ordered up and defeated the Indians just as our column had reached the woods from which the Indians had under taken to drive the American riflemen. Generals Porter and Ripley had not been engaged at all till we advanced to the attack.

The General repeats that this was only the third time that he had told this story, and accuses General Worth with having divulged "the secret" to Thurlow Weed. The latter replies that he had kept it for four years, but does not say from whom he got his information. We ask why the General had only told the incident twice before, and why did he, after "the brief but impressive silence," relate it again? If Weed got the secret from General Worth, what was the necessity for the inquiry of General Scott? Did Weed doubt Worth? Why should it be considered a secret? What discredit, if the story was true, could attach to General Scott? General Scott broke his parole in 1812, and little credit need be given to his statements. The story was a fiction, and accounts for his "brief and impressive silence" before he would venture to tell it a third time.

Yours, 1812.

—Montreal Gazette.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

The correspondence relating to the withdrawal of troops and transfer of the fortified places and properties recently handed over to the Dominion Government, was laid before the House on the 16th inst. The first part referring to the propositions of the Imperial Government our readers are already familiar with. The later despatch dated the 12th February, announces the decision which the Imperial Government has finally come to, which may be summarized as follows. To withdraw the great bulk of the troops, as indicated in Lord Granville's previous despatch. On the other hand the Imperial Government is desirous of affording to the Dominion Government all possible assistance in organizing the military and naval power which they may consider as benefiting a country which has an increasing population of three and a half millions. With this view the Imperial Government is prepared to carry out its pledges of guaranteeing a loan of one million one hundred thousand pounds for defensive works; that is, if the Canadian Government is still in favor of the plan heretofore accepted. In the meantime Halifax is to be garrisoned by about 1500 men, and considered an imperial station. Besides this, the War Department is willing to facilitate the formation of a colonial regiment out of H. M.'s army.

The troops still in the colony are also to be concentrated at Quebec, and the Royal Canadian Rifles are to be disbanded. The barracks and the fortifications already vacated, together with the landed property attached to them, are to be handed over to Canada, with all their armaments, it being remembered

that if at any time troops are sent to Canada at the request of the Local Government, or in furtherance of colonial interest, the Government will be expected to provide them with lodging and barracks. Further, the small arms already issued on loan, and consisting of 4097 snider rifles, 2050 spencer rifles, and 1250 carbines, are to become unconditionally the property of Canada, but no further issues on loan will be made, except under circumstances of special emergency. Lord Granville concludes this despatch by stating that these principles are applicable to all other self-governing British Colonies, just as well as the Dominion, are contingent upon a time of peace, and are in no way intended to alter or diminish the obligations which exist on both sides in case of a foreign war.

RIFLE MATCH.

Match between eight officers, and eight non-commissioned officers and men of the 5th Battalion, Volunteer Militia Rifles, at Beauport, on Saturday, 4th March, 1871.—Five rounds at each range:

	200 yds.			Total
	pts.	hits	misses	
Capt. Morgan.....	12	19	8	39
Lieut. Scott.....	16	14	7	37
Ensign Mahony.....	11	12	11	34
Ensign Scott.....	10	15	7	32
Lieut. Balfour.....	13	14	3	30
Lieut. Wurtele.....	12	16	0	28
Paymaster Frew.....	15	13	0	28
Major Alleyne.....	0	8	5	13
	89	111	41	241
NON-COM. OFFICERS AND MEN.				
Sergt. Holloway.....	16	17	18	51
Sergt. Norris.....	15	16	13	44
Pte. Payne.....	12	13	14	39
Sergt. Hawkins.....	13	14	12	39
Corpl. Brocklesby.....	12	16	9	37
Bugler Jeffrey.....	12	5	10	27
Sergt. Major Sutherland.....	11	9	7	27
Corpl. Scott.....	8	10	5	23
	99	100	88	287

Majority for non-coms and men 46 points.

Return match—Seven on each side—Beauport, Saturday, 18th March:

	200 yds.			Total
	pts.	hits	misses	
Lieut. Scott.....	13	18	17	48
Ensign Mahony.....	16	18	14	48
Ensign Scott.....	15	13	17	45
Lieut. Balfour.....	16	16	11	43
Paymaster Frew.....	10	15	15	40
Capt. Morgan.....	14	16	8	38
Lieut. Wurtele.....	10	15	6	31
	94	113	88	295
NON-COM. OFFICERS AND MEN.				
Sergt. Hawkins.....	16	19	8	43
Corpl. W. Scott.....	13	17	12	42
Corpl. Brocklesby.....	14	16	12	42
Sergt. T. Holloway.....	15	17	10	42
Sergt. Major Sutherland.....	17	17	4	38
Pte. Payne.....	15	18	2	35
Pte. Taylor.....	15	9	9	33
	105	113	57	274

Majority for the officers, 20 points.

Syracuse, Ill., juries do not place much value on babies. Recently a four-year old child was killed by the cars near that city, and the jury awarded the parents \$200. Later, two bear cubs were also killed by the cars, and the jury awarded the owner \$450 for each cub.