

## SIR JOHN FRANKLIN LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF THE RIDEAU CANAL.



T may not be generally known that the first stone of that important work, the Rideau Canal, was laid by the lamented Sir John Franklin. The following account of the event we find in the "*New Montreal Gazette*," for August —, 1827 :

"A letter we have just received from a correspondent at the Rideau Canal, dated August 16, 1827, says :—

I have this evening to communicate to you one of the most important events that ever occurred in the Canadas—an event which will doubtless form an era in the history of this country for ages to come. It was no less than depositing the first stone of the locks of the Rideau Canal. Yesterday evening, at a late hour, Captain Franklin, the celebrated traveller, arrived at the head quarters of the detachment of the 71st Regiment, now doing duty here, when Colonel By decided upon welcoming this enterprising traveller to the regions of hospitality and civilization in a way that would identify his return with a grand undertaking so highly beneficial for the Continent he had spent so long time and labour in exploring,—namely, the laying the first stone of the locks of the Rideau Canal. The high stage of popularity on which the Colonel so deservedly stands, places his desires and their accomplishments almost co-eval. This morning all was bustle to get ready,—at 4 o'clock, p.m., the stone weighing above 1¾ ton was brought to its bed. Colonel By met Captain Franklin on the spot, when the Captain gave the final knock to the stone in due form.

*I understand there is to be an inscription on the stone detailing the circumstances under which and by whom it was laid.*

Notwithstanding the briefness of the notice, (a cause of disappointment to many), there was congregated on the