

THE AMERICAN PRISONERS

DETAINED AT QUEBEC DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

Ere the hand of death closes over the last of the survivors of the War of 1812, it may not be out of place to invite in the columns of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS some data about these stirring times so well depicted by their annalists, Col. Coffin and Robert Christie and others, to supply some few missing links in the chain of minor events.

For the present this inquiry might be limited to the following heads:

1. The name and military rank of those sent prisoners to Quebec.
2. How long they were detained on parole.
3. How long in close confinement and where.
4. Who formed the escort of Quebec Cavalry (officers and privates) in charge of these prisoners.

The sources of such information must be family memoirs, diaries and the personal reminiscences of the few surviving actors in the late war.

In looking over old files of our city journals, I find in the *Quebec Mercury* of 15th September, 1812, the following item: "On Friday, arrived here the detained prisoners taken with General Hull, at Detroit. The non-commissioned officers and privates immediately embarked on board of transports in the harbour, which are to serve as their prison. The commissioned officers were liberated on their parole. They passed Saturday morning at the Union Hotel, where they were the gazing stock of the multitude whilst they, no way abashed, presented a bold front to the public stare, pulled the smoke of their cigars into the faces of such as approached too near. About two o'clock they set off in a stage, with four horses, for Charlesbourg, the destined place of their residence."

The Union Hotel here mentioned is the identical building erected for a hotel by a company in 1805, and now owned by the *Journal de Quebec*, facing the ring.

Were these prisoners located at Charlesbourg proper, or at that locality facing Quebec, in Beauport, called *La Casardière*, in Judge de Bonne's former stately old mansion, on which the eastern and detached wing of the Beauport Lunatic Asylum now stands?

Tradition has ever pointed out to this tenement as that which sheltered the disconsolate American warriors in 1812, with the adjoining rivulet, *Ruisseau de l'ours*, as the boundary to the east which their parole precluded their crossing.

The result of the American defeat at Detroit had been important. "One general officer, two worth, two lieutenant-colonels, five majors, a multitude of captains and subalterns, with nine hundred men, one field-piece and a stand of colors, were the fruits of the victory, the enemy having lost in killed, wounded, missing, and prisoners upwards of fifteen hundred." (Christie.)

Amongst the American prisoners sent down to Quebec was the celebrated General Winfield Scott, who lived to earn laurels in the Mexican war. He was then Col. Scott, and there is yet living in Quebec an old resident, R. Unghart, who well remembers, when a boy, seeing the "tall and stern American Colonel."

Of these prisoners taken at Detroit twenty-three had been recognised as British-born and deserters from the English army. They were sent to England for trial. It is yet possible that some of the veterans of 1812, by their diaries or by other sources of information, may tell us who were the Charlesbourg or Beauport war captives in 1812. They had not been under restraint much more than a week, when by the following advertisement, dated 25th September, 1812, in the *Quebec Mercury* of the 29th September, we find the British Government attending to their comforts with a truly maternal solicitude:

"Commissary General's Office,"

QUEBEC, 25th Sept., 1812.

"Wanted for the American prisoners of war, comfortable warm clothing, consisting of the following articles:

- Jackets,
- Shirts,
- Trowsers,
- Stockings,
- Moccasins or Shoes.

Also 2000 pounds of soap."

From which it is clear, John Bull intended his American cousin should not only be kept warm, but well scrubbed as well. 2000 lbs. of soap foreshadowed a fabulous amount of scrubbing. Col. Scott and friends, were "well off for soap."

Col. Coffin of Ottawa, the able annalist of the War of 1812, in reply to a query of mine, writes me: "Scott remained in Canada from the date of his surrender, 23rd October, 1812, to the period of his departure from Quebec, say May, 1813. But he was on parole the whole time, and from Quebec, as is given in his life by Mansfield p. 55, he went in a cartel to Boston, and soon after was exchanged. Under these circumstances, I do not think it likely that he would have been escorted militarily in custody anywhere, and it may be equally doubted if the guard could have been a guard of honor. Winder may have been also taken to Quebec, or he may have been exchanged on the Western frontier. Armstrong's "War of 1812" will probably give the details."

The *Quebec Mercury* of 27th October, 1812, contains the following:

"The prisoners taken at Detroit and brought down to Quebec are on the point of embarking for Boston for the purpose of being exchanged.

Five cannon are now lying in the *Chateau Court* taken at Detroit."

In retaliation for the 23 American prisoners sent for trial to England, as deserters from the British army, the American Government had ordered that forty-six British prisoners of war should be detained in close confinement. "In consequence of this," says Christie, "the Governor ordered all the American officers, prisoners of war, without exception of rank, to be immediately placed into close confinement as hostages, until the number of forty-six were completed over and above those already in confinement. In pursuance of this order, Generals Winder, Chandler and Winchester were conveyed from their quarters in the country at Beauport, to a private house in Quebec, where their confinement was rendered as little inconvenient as their situation could admit of."

They were exchanged in April, 1814, against British officers, prisoners of war in the States.

Some twelve or fourteen years back a lively discussion took place in the *Morning Chronicle*, at Quebec, between the surviving members of the Cavalry corps, who had escorted to Beauport the American captives.

As near as I can recollect, those who took a part in this controversy were Col. Hale, who commanded the Cavalry troops, Cornet Hammond Gowen, and John Musson, a private of Quebec. All are now dead. But there must be other members of the troop still extant, and the worthies just named have left representatives in whose possession there may be files of the *Journal* containing the controversy; they would confer a favor by communicating the same.

There is still in the land of the living one of the subscribers of the *Quebec Cavalry* of 1812, old Mr. Wyse, of Charlesbourg. Unfortunately, his extreme old age prevents him from recalling the names of the Beauport prisoners of that period, though he remembers the names of his comrades in Bell's Cavalry, in 1812.

Hopeing this hasty communication may elicit "new facts,"

I remain, &c., &c.,

J. M. LEMOINE.

QUEBEC, 15th Nov., 1876.

REV. CHARLES CLARK.

This gentleman was born in London, on the 19th of April, 1838. At the age of twenty he entered the Baptist College, Nottingham, as a student for the ministry. From the first he displayed an unusual degree of ability; and as soon as he had passed through the curriculum prescribed by the college, he was invited to become the pastor of the North Parade Baptist Church, Halifax, Yorkshire. He was afterward chosen minister of the church at Maze Pond, London. At both places, his ministrations were highly successful, and large congregations assembled where the attendance had previously been scanty. The next church to which he was called was Broad Mead, Bristol, which the eloquence of Robert Hall had rendered famous. Since the death of that great pastor, the congregation to which he ministered had declined, until, at the time when Mr. Clark took charge of it, the attendance had become quite insignificant. A few months effected such a transformation that the building was utterly inadequate to hold the crowds that flocked to it, and the committee were compelled to restrict admission to the holders of tickets. In the year 1868, Mr. Clark accepted an invitation from Melbourne, Australia, to take charge of the important church in Albert-street, and he preached his last sermon in London, in Spurgeon's Tabernacle. He entered upon his duties on the Sunday after his arrival, and from that day there was no doubt as to his position in the ranks of English pulpit orators. Week after week the charm of his eloquence filled the Albert-street edifice to overflowing, and visitors to Melbourne came to regard his discourses as among the choicest of the enjoyments which the metropolis of Victoria had to offer. But Mr. Clark had not long been resident in Australia before it was manifest that his culture and tastes were not restricted to pulpit ministrations. For the benefit of the funds of his church, and on behalf of charities, he delivered readings from the works of Dickens, and a lecture on "Christmas Carols," which greatly extended his fame among the general public. As a reader and lecturer he sprang at once to the foremost position in the community, a position which was never afterward challenged. By these two lectures alone over £600 were realized, and having done "so much for charity," it is not surprising that he resolved to turn his inimitable lecturing ability to other account. Taking as his agent Mr. R. S. Smythe, the most travelled manager in the world, then associated with Madame Arabella Goddard, Mr. Clark obtained leave of absence from his congregation, and started for New Zealand, making his first appearance in Choral Hall, Auckland. His eloquence thrilled the people like an electric shock, and for several months, in all the principal cities and towns of that prosperous colony, he was received with unbounded enthusiasm. When he returned to Melbourne he delivered in the Town Hall, for the first time, his lecture on the "Tower of London." It was immensely successful. Week after week this grand building, capable of holding nearly 5,000 people, was thronged; many hundreds of people went again and again to hear the lecture; and almost every mail brought invitations and offers of engagement from the country.

In a few weeks, what with preaching twice every Sunday, and lecturing every evening during the week, Mr. Clark began to exhibit signs of fatigue, and his friends felt a little anxious about him. Acting on their advice, he resigned his pastoral charge for the purpose of making a lengthened tour through the United States and Canada. But though his energies are chiefly devoted to lecturing, he still preaches occasionally for special objects, when the largest churches or theatres are too small to contain the numbers that delightedly attend.

Considering the immensely broader field this continent presents, and the decided taste for lectures of a superior quality that characterises its people, there can be no question that Mr. Clark's appearances in Boston and Montreal justify the belief that, whatever were his Australian successes, they will be eclipsed by the results of his American career. In the former city he delivered his first lecture on October 17th, in Tremont Temple, where Dickens gave his readings; and so wide-spread was the interest created, that he afterward removed to the Music Hall, one of the largest buildings in the United States. Desiring to accomplish the Canadian portion of his tour before midwinter, the popular lecturer hastened to Montreal, where he gave his famous "Tower" lecture on November 6th, and on the three occasions of his appearing that week, his reception was equally flattering with that accorded to him in the centre of New England intelligence and culture. Both in Boston and Montreal the newspaper critics unite in endorsing the verdict of the Australian press, and cordially express their high admiration of the gifted lecturer and elocutionist.

Mr. Clark is fortunate in having as his companion *de voyage* Mr. R. S. Smythe, whose extensive professional travels formed the subject of an article in the *Corahill Magazine* of February, 1871, and who, after familiarising himself with every other portion of the globe where the English language is spoken, comes to this country as special travelling correspondent for several leading newspapers of Australia.

VARIETIES.

MOTTOES.—Mottoes are ticklish things; they should be apt, escaping from vague platitude on the one side, while not giving occasion for sarcastic sneer on the other. When Lord Brougham, elevated to the wool-sack after a career of popular agitation, chose as his motto "Pro rege, lege, grege," he meant it to mean "For king, law, people," and, no doubt, thought he had very happily adapted the old punning style of motto to his own case. But when an enemy perceived that "grege" could only mean "people" in a very free translation, and that "lege" might be taken as a verb, the unfortunate motto, "For king, read, mob" became a standing satire on its possessor.

A NEW BAR-METER.—A trustworthy barometer of the financial atmosphere of France is furnished by the condition of cigar ends on the steps of the Paris Bourse. According to the man whose trade it is to pick up the remnants of tobacco leaf to convert them into new cigars, and who recently confided his experience to the *Paris Figaro*, "When business is dull and nothing doing," he remarks, "the *lourders* slowly smoke their cigars quite out, first because they are idle, and secondly they are economically minded. But if a rise or fall comes, if sudden news arrives and grave rumours are current, the steps are speedily littered with half-consumed cigars, for the speculators no sooner light their weed than they throw it away to join the Babel inside the building, to rush to their agents, to sell out, or to speculate on the rise. Such stirring times are the best for our business."

MOVE ON.—Professor Elicott Evans of the United States tells this story concerning his grand-uncle Joseph Elicott and the chief Red Jacket. The two having met at Tonawanda Swamp, they sat down on a log which happened to be convenient, both being near the middle. Presently Red Jacket said, in his almost unintelligible English, "Move along, Jo." Elicott did so, and the Indian moved up to him. In a few minutes came another request, "Move along, Jo," and again the agent complied, and the chief followed. Scarcely had this been done when Red Jacket again said, "Move along, Jo." Much annoyed, but willing to humour him, and not seeing what he meant, Elicott complied, this time reaching the end of the log. But that was not sufficient and presently the request was repeated for the fourth time, "Move along, Jo." "Why, man," angrily replied the agent, "I can't move any further without getting off from the log into the mud!" "Ugh! Just so. White man want Indian move along—move along. Can't go farther, but he say, 'Move along.'"

CRITICAL PERIODS OF LIFE.—From some elaborate tables drawn up by Dr. Farr it would seem, as far as can be made out, there are certain very critical periods in our career. A baby, for instance, has a very small chance indeed of growing up. But, on the other hand, the period between the tenth and fifteenth years inclusively is that in which the death average is the smallest. At about thirty-five we must begin to take care of ourselves. At this period constitutional changes set in: our hair and teeth begin to fail us; our digestion is no longer what it used to be; we lose the vigor of youth and neglect out-door exercise; above all, the cares of life begin to make themselves perceptibly felt. It is at this time that deaths from suicide take a marked place in the returns of mortal-

ity, and there is also considerable reason to believe that habits of intemperance are apt to suddenly develop themselves. The picture, however, has its sunshiny sides. It would take of course a professed actuary to deduce from Dr. Farr's table their exact result. It appears, however, that if a man tides over his fiftieth year he may make tolerably certain of living to seventy; while if he reaches his seventy-fifth year there is very strong presumption that he will either turn his ninetieth birthday or very near it. A still more interesting question is opened by the series of tables which show the average mortality in different professions and pursuits. Gamekeepers are for obvious reasons the healthiest class of our whole population; clergymen and agricultural laborers come next, and are followed by barristers; solicitors and business men are less fortunate; while at the extreme end of the scale come unhealthy pursuits, such as printing and file-grinding.

SIGNS OF WEATHER.—Dew is always a sign of fine weather, and is never seen except under a cloudless sky. Wind and cloud are sure preventives of dew, from the simple reason that the clouds are able to retain some of the solar heat; and as they can give forth warmth, the radiation from the earth is checked, and a warmer temperature preserved. Wind evaporates the moisture as fast as it appears; and if the wind is westerly, there is little dew or cloud to be seen. The contrary is observed with an easterly wind; but a west wind blows over a vast expanse of land, and having lost its vapour, dries up any moisture it may come across; whereas an east wind, crossing the Atlantic, is full of vapour, and sheds dew on all sides. These remarks, of course, apply chiefly to particular localities, but the influence of a west wind may be seen in spring. Dew is more copiously deposited in spring and autumn than in summer, as there is usually a greater difference in those seasons between the temperatures of day and night; in spring, however, there is a small deposit of dew when a west wind prevails; but in autumn, during the soft influences of south and east winds, the earth is covered with moisture. It has also been observed that there is a greater formation of dew between midnight and sunrise than between sunrise and midnight.

ARTISTIC.

THE roll of students in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts for the present season comprises names of not fewer than 1,300 persons, being about 300 painters, 300 sculptors, and 300 architects.

THE National Gobelin Manufacture is engaged now upon some superb tapestry work for the Exhibition of 1878. Among other things may be mentioned a carpet eighty-six yards square, destined for the Palace of Fontainebleau; two large carpets for the new Hotel-de-Ville, and some panels to be placed in the new porcelain manufactory at Sévres.

MR. SAMPSON, the late city editor of the *London Times*, who died a few weeks ago, had a palace of a house near Hampton Court for his residence. Few places in England can boast of so fair a conservatory and picture gallery as those built and added by Mr. Sampson to the mansion. His collection of pictures, which will, in all likelihood, be shortly brought to the hammer comprises, among others, "The Triumph of Bacchus," by Guido; Titian's "Danaë"; two colossal pictures of the Rocky Mountains, by Bierstadt; "Petraen and Laura," by Severindoneck; a Claude Lorraine; two pictures by E. W. Cooke, R. A.; some of Mr. Macaulay's finest specimens, and several works by Crime and Ety.

ROUND THE DOMINION.

Judgment has been given in the Charlevoix election case, sustaining Hon. Mr. Langevin in the possession of his seat.

There is nothing new from the Eastern Townships in regard to the reported Fenian movement in that direction. All is reported quiet at St. Albans.

The Quebec Council of Agriculture have decided to hold the next Provincial Exhibition at Quebec, provided the City Council place \$6,000 at their disposal for expenses.

The other day a man ploughing on the farm of Mr. Lee, near Stony Creek, Ontario, turned up a 3-pounder cannon ball, supposed to have been used in the war of 1812, at the midnight fight of Stony Creek.

It is intended to organize the Dominion Bar Society—suggested by the Nova Scotia Bar Society—at Ottawa during the next session of Parliament.

The plains of Abraham have been leased by a private association of leading citizens who will lay out the ground as a driving park, plant trees, and otherwise embellish it so that it may become the public park of Quebec. That is a proper way of preserving a great historic landmark from desecration.

PERSONAL.

Hon. Joseph W. Trutch, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, is in Ontario on a visit.

Hon. Wm. Macdougall is going to lecture in the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. Louis Richard, Legislative Councillor, Quebec, died at Stamford, on the 13th inst.

It is stated that Hon. Mr. Justice Mondelet, of the Quebec Bar, is to have a year's leave of absence.

Mr. F. W. Cumberland, Manager of the Northern Railway, has left for England on business connected with the line.

Hon. John Hillyard Cameron died at Toronto, on the 14th inst. Next week we shall publish a portrait and memoir of this distinguished man.

Mr. Dixon, late tutor in the Governor-General's household, has been appointed to a position in the Public Works Department.

James D. Lowin, President of the Bank of New Brunswick, has been appointed Senator for St. John, N. B., in place of the late Hon. John Robertson.

Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers, M. P., and Miss Childers were last week the guests of the Governor-General.