ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Niagara frontier successfully assailed the whole line of the United States territory to Buffalo in retallation for the wanton injuries which had been inflicted upon Canada.

"Vincent behaved most generously to Harvey, to whom he left the entire direction of the movement. He, however, led the main body from the heights to join his detachment. In his despatch he acknowledged great obligations to his lieutenant, adding that from 'the first moment the enemy's approach was known, he watched his movements and afforded me the earliest information. To him, indeed, I am indebted for the suggestion and plan of operations; nothing could be more clear than his arrangements or more completely successful than the result.'"

SIR ALLAN NAPIER MACNAR, BART.

Note 12, page 7.

My readers will find biographical sketches of Sir Allan MacNab in Appleton's "Cyclopædia of American Biography" (New York); Rattray's "Scot in British North America," vol. II., pp. 347, 532; Dent's "Canadian Portrait Gallery" (Toronto, 1881), vol. IV., p. 73; Canadian Home Journal for December, 1898 (art. by Miss Nisbet); but the most interesting and readable sketch is that written in "Portraits of British Americans" (Montreal, 1867), by William Notman, with biographical sketches by Fennings Taylor, Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council of Canada for many years, who knew this distinguished Canadian intimately, and could appreciate better than most men his personal qualities. I give the following extracts from this valuable series of portraits, not now generally accessible except in public libraries:

"To a soldierly frankness of demeanour, suited to the martial tastes which he more especially affected, there were added numerous physical advantages whose influence can scarcely be exaggerated; like the milk maid in the ballad, 'his face was his fortune.' His figure was on excellent terms with his face. He possessed a handsome person, a dignified manner, a graceful address and a voice pleasantly attuned to the pitch of heartiness in which truth commonly finds expression. In his youth he indulged the privilege of youth, for he not only rejoiced in his strength but he had great strength to rejoice in. He was courageous and active, bold and outspoken, with a hand to vindicate what his tongue uttered. No difficulty deterred him, and no labour distressed him, for he possessed audacity enough to grapple with the one and determination enough to overcome the other. He was generous alike in his thoughts and in his actions; he put confidence in others and never lacked confidence in himself.

"His deficiencies of knowledge were supplied by tact; and when the latter was unequal to the duty, there remained some convenient covering qualities to fall back upon in the forms of temerity, and a stock fund of racy assurance which, though of little actual worth to ordinary men, were turned to noteworthy account through the adroitness of one who certainly was not an ordinary man. Thus his unequalled self-possession, or what the historical woman who was privileged to sell oranges within the walls of the parliament building called his 'pretty impudence,' became powers, when the same auxiliaries in abler men would have proved impediments. He trusted

22