

unpleasant experiences. (See Hunter's "History of Simcoe Co.," Vol. I., p. 87-8.)

In 1835 Sir John paid an official visit to the Garrison in his capacity as Governor and Patron of the Indian tribes on the occasion of the annual distribution of presents. There were about 5000 Indians present and Sir John was treated to one of the greatest Indian reviews probably ever witnessed in Canadian wilds. It was got up for the special entertainment of the Governor and his suite. This grand display took place on the level plain between the stone barracks and the bay on the west, then covered with juniper and balsam shrubbery and a few small trees interspersed, the former camping ground of Sir John Franklin's voyageurs. There were several bands of Potahwahtamies, remnants of the Black Hawk War of 1832, Ottawas, Winnebagoes, and Menomies from the U.S. who had made their way across Canada, besides 2000 other Indians. The Pottahwattahmies and the other strange tribes were dissatisfied with the treatment accorded them by the authorities of the U.S. and were making efforts to gain favor with the British authorities and to show what an acquisition they would be to His Majesty's dominions. Sir Richard Bonnycastle, in his "Travels Through Canada," says he was present at this barbaric display and speaks of a "Mimic pantomime of the war path" in which the warriors were entirely naked except for a blue cloth over the loins, some painted half white and half black, the majority revelling in a gorgeous variety of coloring embracing red, white, black, vermilion and tattoo. They carried a drum, and for their flag the tattered remnants of an old British Standard. To Sir Richard's mind they were the embodiment of Toronto fire-water, filth and rags.

We had a description of the event from an eye witness, the late Frank Johnston, who was born at the garrison and was on the spot during the performance. Mr. Johnston stated that they opened the pageant with the Indian war-whoop and then with rifle, spear and tomahawk rushed pell-mell upon the pretended enemy, slaying right and left and with much pretence securing their scalps. This was an attack intended to represent how bravely they could attack and capture the American officer and his army. Next, the whole body of savages suddenly disappeared in groups and flung themselves flat upon the ground and began to wriggle and crawl through the grass and shrubs till reaching a certain point,