

the loaded rifles and the bullet passing through the tent killed the father as he lay asleep. After recovering from the awful shock, they buried the father and then continued their westward journey as far as the Ohio, where they selected a promising location and decided to establish their new plantation. As a protection against wild beasts, they surrounded their new home with a strong stockade. For years they lived unmolested and prospered. One day an "armed force of Indians and Britons prowling for prey" appeared. They entered the property, insults were offered, a fight took place, and the surviving whites and blacks were marched off as prisoners of war. They were first taken to Detroit where the slaves were sold and then the white prisoners were marched to Montreal, 600 miles away. Judge Powell was then in Montreal and saw the prisoners brought in. He had opportunity to talk with Mrs. La Force and collected sufficient money to obtain some food and clothing for the entire family. Mrs. La Force next day gave him a complete list of the slaves and their purchasers. This he transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief at Quebec, Sir Frederic Haldimand, who sent forward to Detroit orders for the return of the slaves to Mrs. La Force, but it was impossible to carry it out, and when Judge Powell went to Detroit some of the officers of the Indian Department still retained their booty in the shape of slaves. The attempt to get rid of the Judge by the forged letter was doubtless prompted by the fear that he might attempt to revive the claims of Mrs. La Force and her children.

"The awful termination of the career of the libellers (one by drowning in a state of intoxication, the other in foreign dungeon for no good) gave quiet to the Refugee so long as he continued sole Judge of the District of Hesse when his removal to the Provincial Court of King's Bench closes the first part of this narrative."

And so it turns out that not only was the account of Judge Powell's trip to Quebec in 1792 "very much exaggerated," but that back of it there is a bit of Canadian history that, while it reveals a sad story of frontier life, reflects honor and credit upon the man who played an important part in the formation of Upper Canada and in the War of 1812, and whose "manly, independent qualities endeared him to the people, and gained for him a high reputation as a Judge." (Read)