

## AN INCIDENT OF THE BATTLE ON THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

Of the several corps that served in 1759, under the immortal Wolfe, the 78th or Fraser's Highlanders is probably the one which left behind the most memories. About ten years after the battle of Culloden, which terminated the unlucky rising of 1746, Mr. Pitt, observing with a liberal and statesman-like eye the spirit of loyalty towards those who placed confidence in them, which was the distinguishing characteristic of the Highland clans, resolved to employ them in the foreign service of Great Britain, under the command of officers chosen from the most esteemed Scottish families. He knew their chiefs could be depended on where their faith was engaged, and he was aware of the devotion with which the clansman followed the fortunes of his chieftain. The experiment succeeded to the fullest extent, and Mr. Pitt has the merit of drawing into the British service a hardy and intrepid race of men who served the Crown with fidelity—who fought with valor, and who conquered for England in every part of the world. Following up this enlightened policy in 1757, the Hon. Simon Fraser, who himself had been engaged in the rebellion, and whose father, Lord Lovatt, had been beheaded for high treason on Tower Hill, was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a battalion, to be raised upon the forfeited estate of his own family, then vested in the Crown. Without estate, money or influence, beyond the hereditary attachment of his clan, the Master of Lovatt found himself in a few weeks at the head of eight hundred men recruited by himself. His kinsmen, officers of the regiment and gentlemen of the country around, added several hundred more. The battalion was thus formed of thirteen companies of one hundred and five men each, numbering in all one thousand four hundred and sixty men, including sixty-five sergeants and thirty pipers and drummers—a splendid body of men, who afterwards carried the military reputation of the nation to the highest pitch. In all their movements they were attended by their chaplain, the Rev. Robert Macpherson, who was called by them "Caipal Nor," from his large stature. They wore the full Highland dress, with muskets and broadswords. Many of the soldiers added at their own expense the dirk and purse of otter's skin. The bonnet was raised or cocked on the one side, with a slight bend inclining to the right ear, over which were suspended two or more black feathers. Eagles or hawk's feathers were worn by the officers. During six years in North America, Fraser's Highlanders continued to wear the kilt both winter and summer. They, in fact, refused to wear any other dress; and these men were more healthy than other regiments which wore breeches and warm clothing. At the battle of the Plains of Abraham the loss of Fraser's Highlanders amounted to three officers, one sergeant and fourteen rank and file—ten officers, seven sergeants and one hundred and thirty-one rank and file wounded. It is a singular fact that Scotchmen were occupying high offices in both armies. Gen. Leve's aide-camp was a Chevalier Johnstone. The French had also a Scotch officer in charge of one of the Sillery outposts, his name was Douglass. It was one of the celebrated warriors of the Master of Lovatt who was the chief actor in the following incident. It has never appeared in print, being a family tradition carefully preserved amongst the lineal descendants of the other actor, the Panet Family, of Quebec. During the last year of the French dominion in Canada, there was a celebrated French surgeon, Dr. P. Badilart, an army physician. On the memorable 17th of September, 1757, Dr. Badilart was in attendance on the Plains of Abraham. On the retreat being sounded, a powerful Highlander by the name of Fraser selected the French physician amongst the fugitives and attempted to capture him. The disciple of Esculapius immediately drew a pis-

tol and attempted to shoot the soldier, who succeeded in disarming him before any harm was done after a struggle, in which the "Savage d'Ecosse," as the Highlanders were then styled by the French, remained the victor. After the surrender of Quebec the French surgeon was released, and having accepted the new regime, he determined to continue the practice of his profession in Quebec. Fraser also obtaining, shortly after, his discharge, settled in Quebec, where he taught a school in the vicinity of the residence of Dr. Badilart, in Garden street, we believe. A good feeling sprung up between the doctor and the Highlander, who whenever he met the son of Hypocrates, used to familiarly greet him with the salutation, "Bon jour, mon prisonnier." Dr. Badilart, being a man of ability, was well treated, nay, honored with appointments by the English government. Thus we find him in 1785 charged by government as assistant military surgeon to go and inquire and report on a new and dreadful disease then showing itself, and known as "La maladie la Baie St. Paul. Relentless fate successively removed the valiant Highlander and his fiery friend, "mon prisonnier," and the incident of the Plains might possibly have been lost and forgotten, had not, on the 13th of September, 1859, the centennial anniversary of the great battle, a descendant of Fraser unexpectedly presented and returned to a descendant of Dr. Badilart, the late John Panet, coroner of Quebec, the identical pistols used a century before.

## VOLUNTEERING VS. THE BALLOT.

In the last number of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW allusion is made to the strain upon the Volunteer movement resulting from the absence of patriotism on the part of employers; and the editor proceeds to contrast the mercantile classes with the employer in rural sections. The case is put on a series of complaints prejudicial to the cities and towns. So far as the complaints have gone to which reference has been made, it is just possible that our contemporary is in the main correct. But it must be taken into account that volunteer organizations in the rural sections are comparatively speaking but in their infancy. Until recently the few battalions existing belonged to cities, and on the occasions requiring the service of the volunteer the hardships fell upon those bodies with the greatest severity. We apprehend that time will demonstrate the similarity of feeling between employers, whether in cities or in the country parts. Indeed one officer in this section has stigmatized the conduct of the agriculturalists as worse than could be expected from the most apathetic merchant, and other captains may have a similar tale to tell. Time only is wanted to remove all seeming differences, and then the proposal to sustain the force through the instrumentality of the ballot will apply, and the sooner all classes are made to feel the importance of the duty they owe to the state the better it will be. The very certainty of the ballot supplying deficiencies will stimulate volunteering. More than this, employers having the slightest respect for their young men, would sanction and encourage voluntary servitude rather than see their assistants occupy the less enviable position of forced attendance at drill, at perhaps the hours when leisure could be least afforded. Under the compulsory system drill would undoubtedly be in day time. Volunteers manage well enough with the spare hours snatched from ordinary recreation. We agree with the REVIEW that if a force is to be sustained up to a fixed standard as to numbers, the ballot must be introduced. If it tends to augment the ranks of the volunteer force all well, if not the responsibility must fall upon those who, having the

power to contribute, withhold all countenance, and who are best able to sustain the pressure. Close-fisted men may harbor the idea that the duty of defence belongs exclusively to the young without connexion or business; that the hardships of a soldier's life is his by right of his position, and to make him a soldier it is necessary that no hardship should be eased from his shoulders. In fact there are men who positively begrudge a friendly thought to the poor fellow in scarlet or green, who sneer at the mention of an outlay either for personal comforts or the means through which efficiency is obtained. These men are every where, and until their sons and their own firesides are made to participate in the sacrifices necessary, a right appreciation is not to be expected. The ballot carries with it to all such admonition enough; once called into requisition such men will find ample excuses for encouraging volunteering, if for no other reason than to keep intact the measure of their own household, and to save themselves from the consequences which the carrying out of the harsher method would involve. Under the pressure of self-interest men with wonderful alacrity learn what best suits their purpose, and just as merchants in cities and towns, and wealthy proprietors in the country, are indifferent to the system of volunteering now, so would they as interestedly become the advocates of that system if the other alternate was brought face to face with their concerns.—[Woodstock Times.

## MISSISQUOI VOLUNTEERS.

MONTREAL, Feb. 9th, 1867.

SIR,—I am the honor to inform you by direction of the Adjutant-General of Militia, that His Excellency, the Commander-in-Chief, has been pleased to approve of the distribution to the non-commissioned officers and men of the Phillipsburg and Freilingsburg companies of the grant made by by-law 23 of the Corporation of the County of Missisquoi.

I have, further to inform you that orders have been transmitted to the officers commanding the companies in question to forward you certified rolls of their respective corps, with a view to the payment of the money, in such manner as you may think fit.

I am the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

W. OSBOURNE SMITH,  
Lt.-Col. A. A. G. MIL.

W. W. SMITH, Esq.,  
Warden, Phillipsburg.

In accordance with the above communication the Warden, W. W. Smith, Esq., notified the officers commanding the corps referred to, to call their respective companies together on Saturday last, and appointed that day to distribute the money in question. Accordingly on Saturday morning Mr. Smith proceeded to St. Armand and paid the non-commissioned officers and men of the Phillipsburg company, in conformity to the by-law passed by the County Council, to wit: 50 cents per diem to each married man, and 25 cents per diem to each single man, after which the company was reformed and three hearty cheers given for the Queen, three for the Warden, and three for Lieut.-Col. Osborne Smith. The Warden in acknowledging the compliment to the Volunteers said:

"I had this morning the pleasing satisfaction of being able to give you an evidence of the manner in which your patriotic services during the late Fenian raid have been regarded by the loyal inhabitants of the county of Missisquoi, and I am sure you will all agree with me that a more satisfactory evidence could not well be given. This is by no means the only recognition of the services of our brave Volunteers, that has been shown by a grateful country. The generous action taken by the government on the losses of those who risked their all for their