

had been enlisted and they formed one of the companies of the garrison. Through *excessive* zeal and indiscrete bravery, they were the cause of an accident which had a great bearing on subsequent events. On the eleventh of July, the formidable batteries which afterwards opened such a terrible fire on the town, being erected, it was resolved to dislodge the enemy from that position by a *coup de main*. Several companies of volunteers were marched four miles above Quebec, where they crossed the river, and came down near the enemy's camp through the woods. The seminary boys who formed part of the vanguard in coming out of the bush, saw a party of men, whom they mistook for british soldiers, and they immediately fired at them. They found out but too late that they had been firing on their own troops, and the consequence of that blunder was, that the whole of the party had to retreat.

This was frequently alluded to afterwards and was called *le coup des écoliers*. It became as such, a byword for any *coup de tête* of whatever nature it might be.

On a previous occasion—viz. in 1690, the seminary boys had been more lucky. When the troops belonging to admiral Phipps' expedition were landed at Beauport, they were attacked by two battalions coming from two different directions, the one from Quebec and the other from Saint Joachim. The young men of the seminary in the former, and the pupils of Mgr. de Laval's school of agriculture near Cape Tourmente, in the latter, were most useful and prominent. The troops had to retreat and take refuge in their vessels after a serious loss. Pierre Monfils, one of the young men, was shot in the arm, and died at the Hôtel Dieu, on the 16th of November. He was terminating his studies, having been nine years in the college.

To complete the history of their feats of arms, we must add, that in 1775, and in 1812, the boys of the seminary turned out under the British flag, with the same zeal and courage they had shown under the white banner of France. In the first instance, they were among the brave men who under the gallant Captain Dambourges, drove Arnold and his troops from that part of the Lower Town which is called the *Sault-au-Matlot*. In the last war, while the enemy was kept in check by their sires at Lacolle and at Chateauguay, they formed part of the garrison, and were frequently on duty during our cold Canadian winters, either at the gates of the castle of St. Louis or on the grand battery. Sir George Prevost was highly pleased with their military appearance, and when they were on duty at the guard house at the castle, Lady Prevost frequently supplied them with some share of the good things provided for her own table. The taste for military exercises which the traditions of the past must have preserved among the pupils was kept up until 1828, when the writer remembers having seen, in the great square or yard of the college, what he then thought a wonderful parade of young soldiers regularly equipped and trained, with an excellent band of music, and in all things, equal to any army in the world, save the comparative innocuousness of wooden guns and swords, a circumstance which, could not be imputed to the heroes themselves.

May he be permitted to add that this scene was not the

smallest of the attractions which induced him to enter college the next year; but alas! this pleasant phantasmagoria had altogether vanished, and *playing soldiers* was put an end to in consequence of one of the boys having been hurt during one of the sham fights.

Drill, is considered by all educationists an equivalent for gymnastics, and as it may prove useful, both to the country and to the individual in after life, we cannot but approve of the course adopted by those colleges who continue to keep up this species of recreation, which, with proper attention, is not more dangerous than any other.

We believe that the colleges of Nicolet and Ste. Anne, have adopted, drilling, as one of the modes of amusement for the pupils during their hours of recreation, and we have understood, that on the last festival of *St. Jean-Baptiste*, the scholars of the latter institution turned out in full military costume.

In addition to the three sieges, and the two fires which threatened the very existence of the seminary of Quebec, its inmates have been severely tried at different times, by the many calamities which have so frequently occurred in that unlucky city.

Immediately after the fire of 1701, the small pox, then prevalent throughout the colony, but more especially so at Quebec, (1) carried off a large number of pupils. In 1832, the college was closed for some months in consequence of the cholera, which in that year raged throughout Canada to a most fearful extent. In 1834, an intermission, for about the same length of time took place, for the same cause, but unfortunately not before the death of one of the pupils. Altho' the epidemic was by no means so terrible in 1849, it proved more fatal to the college than in the previous years five students were carried off before the vacation, which we need not add, soon took place under such fearful circumstances.

The two extensive fires of the 28th of May, and 29th of June 1845, which totally destroyed the suburbs of Quebec, left about fifty of the day scholars perfectly destitute. The seminary took them in as boarders, and they were supplied by their comrades with every thing requisite for the prosecution of their studies.

The pupils of the college of St. Hyacinthe subscribed most liberally in favor of their friends of Quebec, and by these means, many young men were enabled to continue their studies, which, otherwise would have been interrupted, and perhaps totally abandoned.

We have given the names of the first students who went through a regular course of studies. We will now add a list of those who entered the institution, when it was first opened by Monseigneur de Laval, on the 6th October 1668: there were altogether fourteen, eight of whom were french and the remaining six indians. The french were Pierre Volant, Charles Volant, Michel Poulin, Pierre Pélérin, Jean Pinguet, Paul Vachon and J. P. Haslay: the Indians, Joseph Haoudecheté, Joseph Honhatoron, Joseph Handcouaturi,

(1) The cemetery near the *Hôtel Dieu*, is, from that circumstance called *le cimetière des picotés*.