

should have the absolute choice of his own adjutant, and although I had suggested Captain Adams' name in place of Captain Converse, when I was told that it was a subject for the colonel alone to deal with, I SAID THAT IF IT WAS A MATTER OF MILITARY ETIQUETTE I HAD NOT A WORD TO SAY, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT CAPTAIN ADAMS WAS ADJUTANT OF THE 6TH HUSSARS, AND THAT, AS AN EASTERN TOWNSHIPS MAN, HE WOULD BE WELL QUALIFIED TO BE ADJUTANT OF THE 13TH SCOTTISH LIGHT DRAGOONS, SEEING THAT HE HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED BY COLONEL WHITLEY TO BE ADJUTANT OF THE 6TH HUSSARS A FEW MONTHS BEFORE. But these are military matters. I do not presume to set up my opinion against that of the military expert in military matters, but when it comes to matters which are social, and which are local in their character, I do venture to think, in my presumption, that I know more about the Eastern Townships than Lord Dundonald or Colonel Smart. WHEN I FIRST UNDERTOOK TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS REGIMENT, IT WAS JUST ON THAT POINT THAT I SPOKE OF. THE MEN WHO CAME FROM MONTREAL TO COMMAND THE REGIMENT IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS, NOT KNOWING THE PEOPLE, NOT KNOWING THE LOCAL CONDITIONS, NOT KNOWING THE VARIOUS CONDITIONS THAT GO TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS, HAVING MADE A MISTAKE, I ADVISED THEM, HOPING TO BE ABLE TO REMOVE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH CONFRONTED THEM IN THEIR IGNORANCE, AND THAT IS THE WHOLE FORCE AND FRONT OF MY OFFENDING IN THE MATTER. Again, I am not to set up my own opinion, but there is another opinion which I bow to as being that of a military expert. There was trouble a few years ago in regard to another General Officer Commanding, and these pregnant words were used in regard to that gentleman. The writer of these remarks was apparently interviewing His Excellency :

Re my remarks to His Excellency—what I there stated I repeat. I was somewhat taken aback at the cavalier manner in which he "pooh-poohed" my suggestions re soldiers as colonists and re Canadians becoming British soldiers. He seemed troubled with what I frankly confess to be, in my opinion, your complaint of knowing it all and of not wishing to hear facts. I suppose, then, he ought to have heard the facts.

What I said to him of you was that it was just possible you might make a mistake in selecting the officer to command a Canadian contingent.