

Some exhibit the oldest concessions made during the time when Canada was a French Province, and are extremely interesting in an historical point of view,—concessions along the banks of the St. Lawrence, the lower Ottawa, the Richelieu, Yamaska, and St. Francis. Succeeding officials, the Bouchettes, Captains Bayfield and Orlebar, and others, as well as many officers of the Royal Engineers, contributed from time to time; and we now have in this country the details of its chorography and topography as completely and accurately laid out as suffice for the requirement of the present generation, and as place it, with respect to the settled portions, almost on a par with the most densely inhabited regions of Europe: and I may add that under the auspices of the Federal and Local Governments, the same kind of useful work continues to be actively prosecuted.

But it is time to advert more particularly to the very talented and meritorious person whose name is associated with the objects of this paper.

Jean Baptiste Duberger (or, as he usually signed himself, *John Baptist Duberger*) was born at Detroit on Feby. 17th, 1767. When quite young he was sent by his friends to Quebec, furnished with money enough, in the form of pieces of silver, to pay his expenses down, and to secure his admission as a resident-scholar in the Seminary of Quebec. If, as is supposed, he was then about 15 years of age, he must have spent, subsequently, about seven years in that institution; for, in his 23rd year, having given evidence of mechanical genius and of aptitude in the art of drawing, he was taken into the service of the R. E. Department, on the staff of which he continued to be employed during the remainder of his life.

In official documents we find Duberger styled "Mr. Duberger, of the first class of Royal Military Surveyors, and Draftsman."

Although, as will be shewn, Duberger did much towards supplementing and illustrating Canadian history, his name is not even placed on record in the, perhaps, too extensive list of Canadian worthies compiled by Mr. H. J. Morgan, of Ottawa; nor do we find it in that writer's *Bibliotheca Canadensis*. But Bibaud, in his *Panthéon Canadien*, has furnished a brief and imperfect sketch of Duberger. What we know of his career is derived principally from his surviving relatives and from his works themselves, and partly from incidental notices of which he became the subject in consequence of his connection with the famous Colonel By, who superintended the erection of the Martello Towers, still permitted to remain standing on the Plains of Abraham, and who subsequently constructed the works of the Rideau Canal between Ottawa and Kingston.

Duberger's peculiar aptitude for the construction and embellishment of charts of the country was in constant requisition after his entrance into the R. E. staff, in 1789, until the close of the American war—that is, about a quarter of a century,—when, he being afflicted with partial paralysis and frequent ill health generally, most of his customary work was assigned to his son, of the same name, who inherited much of his father's talent and ability.

At the time when Duberger became connected with the R. E. Department at Quebec, something, as has been stated, had been accomplished in the way of surveying the country and establishing its chorography, but not much in that of exhibiting the results of surveys with precision and elegance. The military authorities being then the sole depositories of whatever had been done, or was required to be done, of that nature, Duberger, after passing through a species of apprenticeship in the Department, which served to make known his extraordinary aptitude both for surveying and for executing maps, was

appointed a chief draftsman and surveyor, about the year 1790. More to his natural gifts, his powers of observation, and his manual skill, must be ascribed his having attained to fitness for the post than to the opportunities accessible during his youth to the natives of Canada, or even to the facilities afforded by the R. E. Department. Until towards the close of the century, he appears to have been chiefly employed in *copying* and in multiplying copies of the older maps to which allusion has already been made. Undoubtedly, Duberger executed beautiful copies of most of them, although those now remaining in this country have usually not his name attached, having been copied by *Charland, Gale*, and others. Before the British troops were withdrawn from this country, I saw among the copies of maps in the R. E. office a set of them evidently executed by him, and having his signature; and these, being the best, were naturally selected for removal. In the practice pursued, it sometimes happened that Duberger delineated the map itself, while the whole or part of the lettering and references was left for other and less skilful hands.

I do not feel competent, by means of any critical description which I can furnish, to present an adequate estimate of his skill in drawing maps. Those who, in the course of their profession, are familiar with such matters and with his style, invariably speak of his artistic merit in terms of the highest commendation, and as having been far superior to that of any other draftsman of his day. Mr. Lambert, in the narrative of his visit to Quebec, in the autumn of 1806, makes the following mention of him:

(EXTRACT from *Lambert's Travels*, vol. 1, page 330.

"Before I quit the subject of the arts in Canada, a country seemingly more capable of supporting than creating genius, I must not omit to mention, with the approbation he deservedly merits, a gentleman of the name of Duberger, a native of that country, and an officer in the corps of Engineers, and Military Draughtsman. He is a self-taught genius, and has had no other advantage than what the Province afforded him, for he has never been out of the country. He excels in the mechanical arts and the drawing of military surveys, &c. He had the politeness to shew me several of his large draughts of the country, and many other drawings, some of which were beautifully done, and are deposited in the Engineers' office. The only correct chart of Lower Canada, and which was published in London by Faden, in the name of Mr. Vondenvelden, was taken by Mr. Duberger and another gentleman, whose names had a much greater right to appear on the chart than the one which is at present there."

(To be continued).

SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

McGill University.

The Abstract of the Annual Calendar for the next session, containing full details of the courses of study in the Faculty of Arts and Department of Applied Science, is now ready and may be obtained of the Secretary of the University. The arrangements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts include not only the ordinary course, but honour courses in Classics, Mental and Moral Philosophy, English Literature and Natural Science. There are also premiums for taking the degree in conjunction with Theology, Law or Medicine, or with studies in Applied Science. In the latter department there are courses in Civil Engineering, Mining Engineering and Assaying, and in Practical Chemistry. Occasional and partial students desirous of attending particular classes are also received.

Fourteen Exhibitions and Scholarships have been given to the University by citizens of Montréal, among