

ARTICLE II.

THE SHINERS.

FOR some years after the completion of the Rideau Canal the inhabitants were troubled with a class of people in their midst known by the euphonious *soubriquet* of "Shiners," better understood at the present day as *rowdies*.

A feud sprang up between some Irishmen and Canadians, and the flame thus kindled was soon fanned into alarming proportions; so much so that Captain Baker, a retired artillery officer, and chief magistrate at the time, was compelled to order the people to arm and patrol the streets. The duties of the Captain were certainly not of an envious character, for on him mainly rested the responsibility of quelling it by military interference, or tempering matters in such a way as to allow the ill feeling to die out quietly. The course he adopted was one of prudence; and his persuasive arguments did more towards the accomplishment of the desired end than a volley of bullets.

As an instance of the lawlessness of the times,