

SIR JOHN HARVEY, K.C.B.

Note 11, page 7.

I give from Kingsford (vol. VIII., p. 283) the following references to Colonel Harvey.

"Harvey, whose name is mentioned in prominence in this narrative, became preëminently distinguished in the annals of that date. He was born in 1778 and entered the army so young that in 1794 he carried the regimental colours in action and served throughout the campaign of that and the following year. In 1796 he was present at the Cape of Good Hope, and from 1797 to 1800 at Ceylon. In 1801 he was in Egypt under Sir David Baird. In 1803 he took part in the Marratta war. In 1807 he returned to England, his health broken, and was appointed on the staff with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1812 he was appointed Deputy Adjutant-General in Canada. He did not arrive at Halifax until late in the season in December. As the navigation was closed, he made his way to Fredericton and thence passed by the rough route overland traced through the woods to Canada. Harvey was the bearer of a letter to Sir George Prevost written, we are told by the direction of the Prince Regent, introducing him as an officer who had seen much service. Prevost received him with much distinction. It is said, producing a map and pointing out the great extent of frontier with the small force available for its defence, he asked Harvey his opinion as to the best mode of protecting it. Harvey is said to have unhesitatingly replied, 'First by the accurate intelligence of the designs and movements of the enemy, to be procured at any price; secondly, by a series of bold offensive operations, by which the enemy, however superior in numbers, would himself be thrown on the defensive.' It was this principle on which Harvey acted during his memorable career in Canada.

"At the close of the war he returned to England and served on the staff of the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo.

"In 1836 he was Governor of Prince Edward Island. From 1837 to 1841 Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, whence he proceeded to Newfoundland in 1846, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief. In that year he became Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, where he died on the 22nd of March, 1852, in his seventy-fourth year.

"The principle laid down by Harvey to Prevost was that which dictated the attack of Stoney Creek. It was an occasion when a policy was demanded, the danger of which could not be calculated. Had Vincent waited to be attacked, the probabilities seem that want of supplies and ammunition would have made his surrender unavoidable. His camp moreover would have been subjected to a bombardment to make it untenable. The success of this bold and energetic attack was a turning point in the war. It gave confidence to the British soldier, and to the militia who went forward to the battle-field by his side. Toronto had been taken, its public buildings burned, its private dwellings plundered. Fort George had fallen, and there was much to lead to depression and for hope to sink to nothingness, but the defeat of the force more than five-fold that which attacked it, by which it was driven back to seek refuge in Fort George, awoke confidence, determination, and self-reliance which were never lost. The character of the war changed from that day. It will be seen that the British even became the attacking party, and on the