

was ordered to report himself for duty. He did so, and had some hot words with his commanding officer, and hired another substitute who was accepted. Again he arranged to start for Montreal, and had reached Kingston on his way when he was told by P. Smith that the second substitute had deserted, and that he must go into the ranks. A very severe quarrel was the result. Johnson was arrested and conveyed to the Guard House. He soon effected his escape, it was supposed through sympathizers of whom there were not a few, and getting on board of a batteau, he proceeded to Montreal. In about two weeks he returned with a supply of goods in a batteau, and on reaching the wharf at Kingston was arrested by a guard and taken to jail, while his goods were left with no one to take care of them. 'He was kept in jail ten days, and when let out six hundred dollars worth of goods were missing. He never found them, but Government found Bill Johnson and all his family *Rebels*.' He took the few goods left him, and with two Yankees, residents of Bath, he went over to Sacket's Harbour in a small boat." Respecting this event we have received a somewhat different version. Mr. Lockwood of Sidney who was a Sergeant at the time in Kingston says that Wm. Johnson was drafted; and, after serving for a short time procured his brother as a substitute. After a while his brother deserted to the States, and the captain, not doubting William's loyalty, desired him to resume his place which his brother had left, but he would not do so. The result was that a file of soldiers, commanded by Sergeant Lockwood himself, was sent to arrest Bill by order of the captain, Mathew Clark, of Ernestown. Upon the approach of the soldiers, Bill shouted to Lockwood, who had been his life-long playmate, "I know what you are after, but you won't get me yet;" and at once shut the door and turned the key. Lockwood, promptly, with the butt of his musket knocked the door open in time to see Bill escaping by the back door. A close chase ensued into a back enclosure and Lockwood succeeded in catching him by the leg as he was passing through a window. Bill submitted and was conveyed to the Guard House within the jail. After being confined for some time he escaped by breaking jail, probably aided by sympathizers. Whatever may have been Johnson's feelings before towards the British Government, he now became a most determined enemy of his native country. He vowed he should be a "thorn in Great Britain's side." This account we had from the lips of Sergeant Lockwood, whom we visited in 1866, who seemed to have a clear recollection of the event. And the statement of Andrew Johnson, brother of Bill, whom we saw on the same day, seemed to corroborate it. Mr. Lockwood, we believe, died a few years ago.

Whatever may have been the exact nature of the causes of Bill Johnson's alienation and espousal of the American cause, he lost no time in carrying out his desperate resolve to gratify his revenge, and do all he could to injure Canada and aid the Americans. Before many days, according to Mr. Wood, his former captain, P. Smith, suffered a personal loss. A schooner of his laden with sawed lumber was passing from Gananoque to Kingston, when Bill, with a number of Yankee soldiers, boarded her and destroyed her by fire. During the summer season Bill frequently visited Bath, being secreted by his brothers and his Yankee nephew, Dr.——, and returned to the States with all the news his friends could give him. One night at 11 o'clock, a man named George Huffman, who was burning a coal pit in the woods about a mile from the shore of the Bay, saw even