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# ANOTHER PATRIOT GENERAL

By the Honourable William Renwick Riddell,

IN *The Canadian Magazine* of November, 1914, appeared an account of Thomas Jefferson Sutherland, a General in the "Patriot" army of 1838. The following article deals with his comrade Edward Alexander Theller, who hated and despised him and was hated and despised by him in equal measure.

Theller was born in Colerain, County Kerry, Ireland, January 13th, 1804, of a good family; he received a good education and distinguished himself as a linguist; even as a youth he became proficient in French and Spanish, an accomplishment that was to stand him in good stead in later life. At a rather early age he came to the United States, but retained to the end his love for his native land and (what he considered a necessary corollary) his hatred for England and all things English.

When the time came for him to elect his allegiance, he became an American citizen, formally forswearing all allegiance to the King in whose dominions he had been born. About 1824 he came to Montreal, where he studied medicine. A fellow student was Dr. Chénier, who was to become a prominent leader in the Rebellion in Lower Canada and to die in battle at the Church at St. Eustache. Some say that Theller was for a time a member of a free love community in New York State.

Theller practised medicine for a

time in Montreal and also carried on a drug store in partnership with Dr. Willson, after whose death he married his widow, Ann Pratt, a lady of some means, daughter of an English gentleman. He seems to have been convinced of his success as a medical man, especially in healing cholera.

His residence in Lower Canada increased rather than diminished his hatred of Britain; and in 1832 he removed from under the flag, settling in Detroit, which had been visited by an epidemic of cholera. Both in that year and in 1834, in another epidemic of cholera, he did good service as a physician.

A man of much energy, he prospered financially and in a few years he was the owner of a wholesale grocery store and also of a drug store; he was as well a physician in active practice in partnership successively with Dr. Lewis F. Starkey and Dr. Fay. He became one of the most prominent supporters in Detroit of the "Patriot" cause; and when an invasion of Upper Canada was planned in the winter of 1837-38 he was chosen as Brigadier-General to command the first Brigade of French and Irish troops to be raised in Canada. The "Sympathizers" were firmly convinced that it only required a force of invaders to appear, to cause the Canadians to rise *en masse* against the supposed tyranny of Britain. Theller, indeed, continued to believe that