



THE HONOURABLE JAMES CUTHBERT, AND CATHARINE, HIS WIFE.

AN HISTORIC CANADIAN FAMILY.

THE CUTHBERTS OF BERTHIER.

No family in Canada has a more interesting history than that of the Cuthberts of Berthier.

The first of that name who came to Canada, James Cuthbert, was the great grandson of John Cuthbert, Baron of Castlehill, in the language of the Lyon King of Arms, 'chief of that ancient surname.' His father was John Cuthbert, of Inverness, and his mother Beatrice, the daughter of David Cuthbert, of Andresier.

These Cuthberts of Castlehill were descended from George Cuthbert, who in 1411 commanded the forces raised by the town of Inverness at the Battle of Harlaw against the rebellious Donald, Lord of the Isles, and whose standard George Cuthbert seized.

This bearer of the name of Cuthbert was the representative of an ancient Saxon family in the Kingdom of Northumberland. This territory at one time embraced not only the present county of this name, but also York, Lancaster, Durham, Cumberland and Westmoreland,—the tract north of the Humber. It is asserted that the Cuthberts were the English relatives of the most famous saint of the North, the prior of the earlier Melrose and Bishop of Lindisfarne, St. Cuthbert, who died in 687, and whose bones at length found a resting place in Durham Cathedral. Anterior to this the family are said to have come from Tuteland.

The battle of Harlaw was one of the most obstinately contested in the early annals of Great Britain. The Earl of Mar commanded the Royal forces, and such was the carnage that Buchanan says there perished in this conflict more illustrious men than had fallen in foreign wars during many previous years. The ground was obstinately contested on both sides; neither was eventually victorious.

For the conspicuous valour shown by the Cuthberts in this engagement, to the serpent azure their shields displayed that day was then added a *fesse gules* as a perpetual

monument to their honour. The *fesse* is now different, but the sliding azure serpent is still borne.

James Cuthbert served in early life in the navy. He was lieutenant in Admiral Vernon's flagship in 1740, at the siege of Carthage, and carried home the news of the taking of the forts.

He also transferred his sword to the sister service, and we find him in command of one of the independent companies at Inverness, the Highland watch. The town presented him with a piece of plate in recognition of special services.

James Cuthbert then served with that very gallant regiment which commenced to gather its laurels as the 43rd, and has ever since continued the harvest under every sky as the 42—"the Forty-two."

We find him in 1758 with the 15th. or Amherst's regiment. England was at this time protecting her possessions in different parts of the globe, and carrying on an aggressive war on the French in Canada, and the 15th regiment was employed at Louisbourg. Here Cuthbert took part in the capture of the American Dunkirk.

The following year he served in the same regiment in the memorable campaign under Wolfe on the St. Lawrence, which terminated in the Battle of the Plains.

No one can read without emotion the notice of the sailing of the last ship of the fleet from the St. Lawrence for England—after the taking of Quebec. Wolfe's body was being borne to his resting-place among his kindred. Montcalm's earthly remains were in the keeping of the sisters of St. Ursula, in their picturesque chapel. They lay in a soldier's grave, made by a shell of his adversary Murray and his little army were left in the midst of a strange land. Hundreds of miles of snow on every side separated them from the nearest friendly post. The brave and accomplished Levis, burning to retrieve the defeat of

the Plains, was preparing to retake the city. He was a foe in every respect worthy of Murray's resources. He was at home, his forces accustomed to the climate, and he was kept advised of every movement the English made by friends in and around the walls of Quebec. Fortunately the greatest unanimity existed among the garrison. The spring found Levis besieging the city.

Anxious eyes were directed across the basin towards the island of Orleans. It was a question which fleet would arrive soonest. For had the French succor appeared first, with besiegers on the plains and a hostile armament in the river, Murray would have been placed in a trying position. That winter and spring he buried a thousand men of his garrison.

Captain Cuthbert was A.D.C. to the general, shared the anxiety of that first winter, and carried to England his despatches.

Quebec was relieved, Montreal capitulated, and Canada became a British dependency. Captain Cuthbert remained with General Murray during his stay in Canada.

Lieutenant-Governor Guy Carleton was appointed on the 24th September, 1766, and on the 28th November of that year we find Captain Cuthbert a member of the Legislative Council.

Captain Cuthbert had resolved to make Canada his home, and left the army.

On the 7th March, 1765, by notarial deed, executed at the city of Montreal, before Simonet and Panet, notaries, in the house of John Fraser, Esq., Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, the Honourable Captain Cuthbert acquired from Sieur Pierre Noël Courthiau Bourgeois, then resident at Bayonne, in France, represented by his brother, the seigniorship of Berthier, a tract of land of about fifteen miles front by about twenty-one miles in depth, on the north shore of the river St. Lawrence, nearly opposite the mouth of the Richelieu.

This seigniorship was principally held under two titles, one of the 27th August, 1674, from Count Frontenac to Captain Alexandre Berthier, and the other 31st December, 1732, from the Marquis de Beauharnois and Hocquart, intendant to Sieur Pierre l'Etage.

Captain Cuthbert paid a considerable sum for the property by draft on George Ross, Esq., of London, payable on the ratification by the absentee vendor of certain formalities connected with the sale.

Captain Berthier was a distinguished officer of the famous Carignan Salieres Regiment. He had seen ser-