

In the contingency of their services being required for the defence of their homes, the militia were called out in the month of August, one-fifth to be prepared to march when and where required. The call was responded to with cheerfulness and in the best spirit. There was no holding back either by the French Canadians or the British. On the contrary, several volunteered their services. There was no plea on the part of young married men that they should be absolved from duty. The feeling thus awakened in the cities extended to the country parishes, and confidence was felt that in case of any painful exigency the country would be loyally and firmly defended.

So satisfactory was the result of this appeal that the administrator issued a general order making known his "warmest approbation" of the conduct of the militia, and that "it would be the highest happiness of his life, to lay before the king their zeal, loyalty and public spirit."*

Mgr. Plessis also issued a *mandement* on the occasion, written with his usual ability. He alluded to their obligation as French Canadians to defend their country. He pointed out how they enjoyed a liberal constitution on the model of the United Kingdom, and that their ancient laws of property had been preserved. He spoke of the readiness with which they had responded to the call of duty and patriotism, and that to have acted otherwise they would have been unworthy of the name of catholics and of Canadians; that they would have been forgetful of the orders of their church and of the example of their ancestors, if they had shewn disloyalty, or even indifference, in this appeal to their

* One passage of this general order may with propriety be here inserted: "The president also feels himself justified in asserting that a more ardent devotion to his Majesty's person and Government has never been witnessed in any part of the British dominions; and it is particularly to be remarked, that the idea of defending their own families, and their own property, has appeared in manner to have been absorbed in the minds of all descriptions of persons in this province, by the more general sentiment of coming forward in the cause of a justly beloved sovereign, and in support of a form of government which has been proved by experience to be the best calculated for promoting the happiness and securing the liberties of mankind." [Christie, Vol. I., p. 258.]