

“ Captain Marryat, who achieved greater fame as a novelist than as a soldier, and who described the battle of St. Eustache for his English readers.” I have before me “ The Life and Letters of Captain Marryat,” by his daughter, in two volumes, and on Vol. II., p. 64, is a letter by the Captain to his mother, dated at Montreal, December 18th, 1838, in which he speaks of his presence at St. Eustache during the battle, and says :—“ I was going south “ when I heard of the defeat of St. Denis, and the dangerous “ position of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and “ I considered it my duty as an officer to come up and offer “ my services as a volunteer. I have been with Sir John “ Colborne, the Commander-in-Chief, ever since, and have “ just now returned from an expedition of five days against “ St. Eustache and Grand Brulé, which has ended in the “ discomfiture of the rebels,” &c., &c.

But the battle of St. Eustache was fought on December 14th, 1837,—not 1838, as the letter referred to makes it. It appears amongst his correspondence in consecutive order, the letter immediately preceding it is dated “ October, 1838,” and the one following it is from “ New York, January 7th, 1839.” This is also addressed to his mother, and commences :—“ I wrote to you about a fortnight back when I was at Montreal.”

Where shall we look for accuracy in historical matters? As to the newspaper reporter speaking of Captain Marryat as a “ soldier,” that is of little moment, since every English schoolboy knows he was a captain in the “ navy.”

H. M.

Queries and Replies.

Which city published the *first* directory, Montreal or Quebec, and what year? ———

How did “ Fletcher’s Field,” at the head of Park avenue, Montreal, get its name?