

very disturbed state on account of some grievance, real or supposed, of which the turbulent demagogues of the people complained. Influenced by their discontented Bureaucrats, the French Canadians rose in open rebellion against the Government. Ralph Edwards and the majority of the young Colonists of British origin enrolled themselves in the volunteer militia; many skirmishes took place between the contending parties, in which the British settlers, aided by the few regulars which at that time garrisoned the strongholds of Quebec and Kingston, had no great difficulty in preventing the undisciplined and badly armed rabble from gaining any decided advantage.

During the autumn and winter of 1838, the rebellion again broke out on a more extended scale, the insurgents having received the promise of money and men from Anglophobists and sympathisers in the United States. In the meantime, troops had been sent from England and the volunteers had become trained and seasoned, hence after two or three battles in which the rebels were thrashed, and their Yankee sympathisers were taught a severe lesson to mind their own business, the colony was restored to its normal repose and wanted stagnation.

As our object is not to write a history of Canada, but to follow the fortunes of our immigrant, Ralph, whose change from old-world habits and refinements to colonial simplicities, and sylvan enjoyments, and from the latter to the pomp and panoply of war, we have endeavored to portray in the preceding chapters, we will leave to the legitimate historian the task of chronicling the astounding fact that the rebels were ultimately rewarded for their contumacy, and that the loyal British volunteers who saved the colony from becoming a *Catibuck* republic, or a part of the United States, were sent to their back wood homes to nurse their wounds and wonder at Lord Elgin's method of treating rebellious subjects.

Ralph Edwards' brief, but sharp experience as a volunteer, had given him a strong taste for the profession of arms. He had been praised on two different occasions in General orders, therefore he found little difficulty in obtaining, through his father's influence, and that of his late commanding officer, a commission in the Royal Canadian Rifles, a corps raised by the Imperial Government for service in the British North American colonies exclusively. While serving in that corps, the young lieutenant perfected himself in his drill to the extent that he soon became adjutant of the regiment, and while he was the intimate friend of all his brother officers, he was also the darling of the men. Ralph also made many warm friends in the cities of Ontario, then called Upper Canada, where he had been stationed, but his best and most intimate friend was Colonel Charles Hartinger, a handsome, gentlemanlike man, whom our rifleman had met at a public ball in the city of Montreal. The Colonel was Ralph's senior in age, and had seen active service in the Spanish Legion during the Carlist war.

Tall and commanding in figure, with a swarthy complexion and flashing black eyes, he would easily have been taken for a full blood Indian chief, but the long drooping moustache proclaimed the white father, an old Hudson Bay Factor who had resided for many years in the far distant Northwest, had there married the daughter of the noted chieftain 'Hole-in-the-Day' (the Sun) whom he had sent at great expense and trouble to a Montreal convent to be educated. And richly was Factor Hartinger repaid for his unselfishness and lavish expenditure when after four years of self-imposed widowhood and onnui, his dusky bride returned to him in the full bloom of ripened womanhood, adorned with all those feminine accomplishments and virtues which the Ursuline Sisters are so well fitted to impart.

The Factor had been dead several years, and had bequeathed a large fortune to his wife and three sons. Charles, who was the eldest, resided with his mother in a handsome mansion in Montreal where

Ralph was often a welcome and cherished guest.

CHAPTER IV.

Having followed Ralph Edwards thus far in his career as settler, sportsman and soldier, let us accompany him through one or two incidents of his colonial life which were destined to exercise a controlling influence over his future.

The first of these events, a very sad one, was the death of his beloved mother, whose fragile constitution, undermined since early girlhood by that most insidious of all diseases, consumption, succumbed to the rigors of the Canadian winter. Although not unexpected, her death was a stunning blow and one which carried with it evil consequences, for it broke up Ralph's happy home. Endeavoring to aid and Captain Edwards returned to England, sought and obtained the command of a ship and endeavored in the turmoil of active service to recover that equanimity of mind and temperament, which the neglect of his relatives and the loss of his much loved wife and consequent breaking up of his home, had much shaken.

The next event which bore a very powerful, not to say prophetic influence on our hero's future life, was one of those fortuitous occurrences which sometimes mark a phase in the life of a man, and are fraught with vital consequences for good or for evil, for weal or for woe. It happened thus: Ralph, who was quartered in the pretty town of Cornwall in the Upper Province, had arranged with a friend to hunt in the vast forests which lay in pristine solitude between the St. Lawrence river and Lake Champlain; and according to his custom had sent for his old Indian guide Anos. Taking their departure from the Inroquois village of St. Regis, in three days time they found themselves in the vicinity of the Adirondack mountains where they pitched their tent.

(To be continued.)

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