

THE HENS IN COUNCIL.

BY E. N. LAMONT.

(From the Scottish American.)

Published at the request of a Scottish friend who respectfully dedicates it to "A HAN BLEU."

There's tumult in the hen-coop,
There's clockin' on the rail;
Is this a fowl proceedin'
Or is't a ludlous tale?
Methinks I'll softly enter—
What's this? Some scartlin' here!"
"The Clockin' Hens' Convention—
Nae rooster need appear."

Losh! what a fearful talkin';
I'll stand here by the door—
An ancient hen is clockin',
And noo she has the floor.
Her neck looks rather withered.
Her feathers much decayed;
That nob is slightly redder
Than when she was a maid.

Out spoke this ancient layer—
Her voice was thin and shrill—
"My sisters, O my sisters,
This row will make me ill;
Ye ken I'm no a chicken,
I'm twenty-one the day."
"Her twenty!—sic a lee'er—
I heard a wee hen say."

She coughed and she coughed—
She couldna speak, puir thing—
Oot cam' a wee bit bottle
Frae underneath her wing.
"Ma greens, I'll tak' my mixture
Afore oor woes I tell."
I heard a whisper, "Speerits,
I ken it by the smell."

"The subject of my lecture
Is on our rights ye ken—
'Tis time that we were crowin',
Assure us I'm a hen.
Too long hae we been hatchin'
For ither people's shelves—
The time's arrived, my sisters,
To hatch eggs for oorself."

"Shall we gie a' oor scraplins
To feed anither's maw,
And hae him crawin' ower us
A stoppin' o' oor jaw?
Let us be slaves nae longer,
Far better let us die!"
"I want to be a rooster,"
I heard a maiden cry."

"I hate the stuck up monsters,
Wha strut and fume, and fret,
And think that we puir females
Are only made to pet,
Thank guidness I hae never
Yet listened to their crow!"
"Because," remarked a chicken,
"Ye never had a beau."

"The day is no' far distant,
Instead of 'conscia mens',
Oor motto shall be altered
To 'conscia recti hens'.
When we shall walk in freedom,
And strut around the street,
Wi' kames upon our noddles,
And spurs upon our feet."

"When we shall hae oor Senate,
Composed of female brains,
To legislate on bonnets,
And regulate our trains.
We'll hae oor lawyers, doctors,
Oor commerce and oor trade,
And eus the horrid monsters!"
"Don't see it," said a maid."

"Of course we can't ignore them,
Altho' we cease their yoke;
We'll keep some bonnie roosters
Wha neither drink nor smoke,
Noo hand around the saucer.
We're finished for to-day—
Three chicks for female suffrage!"
"Ra!—chick!—erick!—eray!"

She ceased, and as she hobbled
Upon the spar below,
An ancient spyin' rooster
Set up an awfu' crow—
"Gang hame, ye clockin' grannies,
Ye've got yer wark to do—
Gang hame and mind the chickens—
A-cock-a-doodle-doo!"

Oh, sic a fearful clockin'
Was never heard afore,
Each spinster and each granny
Made a rush for the door.
And thus I thought, "Oh, woman,
God sent you here below
To help your fellow mortal,
To bless him, not to crow."

The County Council of Simcoe, in addition to the grant for a county cup for volunteer shooting, have voted \$100 to be given away annually to the best eleven shots.

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

XX.

The American garrison at Detroit continued to send out detachments during the winter of 1813 for the purpose of plundering the farmers on the Western and North Western frontiers of Canada, left defenceless by the foolish and insane order for disarming the local Militia, consequent on Proctor's defeat, but experience demonstrated that if the Militia had been allowed to conduct the defence of the frontiers no Yankees would dare or be allowed to invade or plunder them. Early in December Major General Cass, commanding at Detroit, detached a foraging party of 41 regular soldiers, under the command of Lieutenant Larwell for the purpose of plundering the farmers in the counties of Kent and Essex. Information of their depredations reached a young Lieutenant of the Norfolk Militia, Mr. Henry Medcalf, residing at Long Point on Lake Erie; he also ascertained that they were ascending the River Thames, distant from his residence 120 miles. With patriotic gallantry he determined to give those hen roost robbers a lesson which they would not forget and he accordingly assembled three sergeants and seven rank and file of his own regiment, and on the 16th December commenced his march. At Fort Talbot he was joined by one lieutenant, one ensign, one sergeant and seven rank and file of the Middlesex Militia, and by a sergeant and six rank and file of a troop of Provincial Dragoons; at Chatham he was joined by a lieutenant and eight rank and file of the Kent Militia, making his total number, including officers, thirty-seven. At this place it was ascertained that the marauders were at Macrao's house on the river side. Owing to the rapidity of the march eight of the men were worn out with fatigue and were left as a guard over the horses while the gallant commandant at the head of twenty eight officers and men at once proceeded to the attack. They found the house closed and preparations made for a most determined resistance, but the door was beat open by one of the Sergeants of the Norfolk Militia, and after a short scuffle, in which two of the American soldiers were killed and three made their escape, the remainder, consisting of three lieutenants, two sergeants, two corporals and thirty-three rank and file, making a total of forty men of the United States army were captured; for this gallant action Lieut. Medcalf was promoted.

The re-possession of the Niagara frontier enabled General Drummond to afford some assistance to the defenceless and harrassed North Western frontier; accordingly early in February, 1814, he had pushed forward a small force of troops, consisting of the two flank companies, Royal Scots, the light company of the 89th regiment and a detachment of Militia, making in all 195 rank and file, to Delaware on the Thames. Late on the night of the 3rd March information was re-

ceived that an American foraging party had advanced to within fifteen miles of the station, and at daylight next morning Captain Basden of the 89th, with the flank companies of the Militia and about 50 Indians moved forward to attack them. The American party consisting of 160 mounted infantry on the approach of the British fell back five miles to Twenty Mile Creek, at which point a wide and steep ravine crosses the road, on the western bank the Americans felled some trees to form a log breastwork, covering three sides of the position, and coolly awaited attack.

To understand what followed it is only necessary to say that the surface on both sides of the ravine was nearly level, but to reach either a descent of fully fifty feet had to be made in one hundred yards. Within three hundred yards to the North or right of the British advance the ravine could be crossed on the level as it terminated at that point. Being filled by an annual stream supplied by the melting snows by marching across the head of the ravine the Yankee position could be uncovered.

On the arrival of the British in front Captain Basden had this peculiarity pointed out to him and he was advised to let the Militia and Indians operate on the left flank of the Americans before he attacked in front, he directed the Militia to make the movement on the right, the Indians on the left; as the ground was covered with a dense growth of hardwood, a little delay occurred before the Militia could get into action, and Captain Basden impatiently attacked in front his men having to ascend the face of the ravine over frozen snow, actually succeeded in reaching within three yards of the breastwork, but exposed to a murderous fire had to fall back with a loss of fourteen killed, forty-nine wounded and two prisoners, total sixty-five. The Americans were immediately afterwards compelled to abandon the breastwork by the fire of the Militia and retreated by forced marches to Detroit, the British being in no condition to follow. On the 19th March General Wilkinson advanced to Chazee, a village on the road to Champlain, distant three miles from the boundary line. His force concentrated here consisted of 4000 infantry, 100 cavalry, 205 artillerymen and 11 guns. He detached a corps of riflemen and a brigade of infantry in sleighs across the ice on Lake Champlain to Isle la Motte and thence to Vermont near Missisquoi Bay; on the 22nd this corps crossed the lines and took possession of Philipsburg a village of sixty or seventy houses, and on the next day a detachment of artillery with field pieces joined, but on the 26th the whole suddenly retreated and re-crossed Lake Champlain.

At La Colle Mill, distant eight miles from Lake Champlain and seven from Isle-aux-Noix, a garrison of seventy men of the Royal Marines, one corporal and three men of the Royal Marine Artillery, a company of the 13th regiment and a small detachment