

their seaward flank by the British Navy, on their land frontier were protected by the wild nature of the country. The one strategical gateway into Lower Canada is the route by Lake Champlain and the Richelieu, and some fatality seemed to dog every effort which the Americans made to enter it; so that, as Mr. Benjamin Sulte has pointed out, the people of Lower Canada suffered no actual invasion and dwelt for the most part in peace and security. The most serious conflict in defence of Montreal, the battle of Chrystler's Farm, by an odd coincidence, took place up the St. Lawrence, still to the right of the city aimed at by the invaders. On the Niagara frontier the real force of the fighting fell, and, consistent still, the one decisive success which the Americans won was in the valley of the Thames, the extreme right of the British position. This characteristic is, of course, the natural consequence of the strategical situation, the British command of the sea obliging the invaders to choose inland avenues of attack. The effect was, of course, that Upper Canada had the heaviest fighting, and it follows that the Militia of this Province was more constantly employed than that of the others. It had, however, no monopoly of service. A Militia acting as such in close association with a body of regular troops has two functions to fulfil. In the field it can, by discharging a number of miscellaneous duties, save the strength of the regulars for the actual hour of combat, when the solidity of discipline and the precision of manoeuvre of the professional soldier are seen at their highest advantage. Special bodies of Militia may attain to an efficiency entitling them to a

place in the line of battle, but in general they will be what, in the old days of rigid drill, were known as "light troops." In the second place, a Militia may be the best recruiting field for the regular troops; the British Militia for many years has been a conspicuous example of this use. To both these demands the Canadian Militia responded. In safe New Brunswick two whole battalions of the regular army, the 103rd and 104th, were practically raised, while in Upper Canada several corps mustered many Canadians in their ranks. No British force moved without its complement of Canadian Militia, and certain corps, such as the Glengarry Light Infantry and the Incorporated Militia fought through the campaigns shoulder to shoulder with the regulars. The effort put forth by the people of Upper Canada was very great. In round numbers there were about 11,000 men fit to bear arms in the Province. Of these many were very recent immigrants from the United States, and saw no reason to take up arms against their former compatriots, so that one of the difficulties of the young Province was actual disaffection. Yet another difficulty was the need for growing the crops, for communication was so slow and difficult that the food difficulty was very pressing. Yet the Province managed to keep some 3,000 men under arms at one time or another, including two or three permanently embodied battalions of excellent troops. At critical moments the Militia were of great assistance; Sir Isaac Brock, for instance, held the Niagara for several months prior to the battle of Queenston Heights with a force largely composed of Militia, the proportion

of regulars being very small. It was in 1814 that the general order was published which prescribed the uniform to be worn by the Militia, and it directed the facings to be of blue. Now, blue is the color of Royal regiments, and upon that circumstance is founded the present use of the royal color by the service and the claim to the designation "Royal Canadian Militia." It was an honor well won by hard service, yes, and self-denying service.

The rough lesson of 1812 was long remembered in Canada and for many years the governing classes were deeply impressed with the need for the maintenance of the machinery of self-defence. From the very first the right of the Government to call upon all the people to defend their country was recognized. The plan of organization which was adopted was practically the same in the various provinces, local differences of course existing. In Upper Canada up to 1846 the Militia was composed of all the male inhabitants between the ages of 18 and 60, and they were enrolled by the Captains on June 4, the old King's Birthday. Colonels had the right to assemble their commands one day in each month for drill and inspection. A strictly territorial system of organization existed, each county having one or more battalions and each smaller district its company. In Lower Canada the age was from 16 to 60, and there were three muster days in the year, one in June, one in July and one in August. On these days the Militia were assembled "to review arms, to fire at marks, and for instruction in the exercise"—something much resembling the "wapinschaw" which Scott describes in "Old Mortality."

## THE PIONEER WIMBLEDON TEAM—July, 1871.



SERG. McMILLEN. LIEUT. McNACHTON. LIEUT. LITTLE. SERGT. HAMS. LIEUT. BURCH. PTE. JENNINGS.  
CAPT. GIBSON. PTE. MURISON. PTE. JOE. MASOC. SERGT. DR. McDONALD. SERGT. WILKINSON. SERGT. OVERLAND. SERGT. KINSAIDE.  
PTE. DR. ORONHYATEKHA. CAPT. W. BELL. ENSN. T. WASTIE.  
SERGT. SAEBE. CAPT. WERNER. CAPT. McCLENNAN.  
LIEUT.-COL. SKINNER. CAPT. COTTON.