
MEMORIES OF THE REBELLION OF '37.

By Gilbert Robinson.

(The following Narrative was written down by his grandson, Percy J. Robinson, M. A., St. Andrew's College, Toronto on the occasion of its recital, Aug. 4, 1892).

Our attention had been turned to Lower Canada where the Rebellion had already broken out. We thought those who were disaffected would go to join the rebels in Lower Canada, never dreaming that a Rebellion would break out in Upper Canada, although it was well known that there were many who were rebelliously inclined.

One evening my brother-in-law, Mr. Hunter, came running in and said, "Do you know that the rebels have massed around Queensville and Sharon and are marching to take Toronto"? I did not believe it at first; then he said, "Let us go down to Bradford and hear the news." So we went to the village and there found the report was true. Everybody was in a state of excitement, and there was quite a crowd of people in the village. "We'll have to fight for the country," said I, "for if these rebels are unopposed they will take the country at once." That night, knowing of several in the village who belonged to the party of the rebels, I organized expeditions and we went to their houses and demanded their arms. I said to them "Either give up your arms or promise to take no part in the rising." They all chose to surrender their arms, and thus a few guns were secured. But the forces which gathered were armed mostly with pitchforks and pikes. Mr. Driftil, the blacksmith, worked all day and night putting iron pikes upon poles to furnish arms for the gathering forces.

It was some time before we could get the men from the surrounding country together. We could get no dispatches to or from Toronto, but in two or three days we were on the march fully expecting to have to fight our way to the city. News reached us of the battle at Montgomery's, but the danger seemed to be by no means past so we marched on. We suffered much from want of food; the taverns had abundance of salt pork, but it was impossible to eat it so strongly was it salted.