

"I will cause the subscription lists to be sent to different parts of the province, and will do what may depend on me to promote its success, having first put down my own name for six copies.

"I remain, dear Sir, your very faithful servant,
(Signed) "J. HARVEY.

"Montreal."

Singular enough to state, I had never seen the gallant officer who had thus flatteringly borne testimony to the little merit attached to the early initiation in arms of my lamented brother and myself. Sir John had always been actively employed with the centre division, while I continued, until made a prisoner, to serve with a distant division (the right) of the army. Notwithstanding, therefore, the uniform kindness which he, as well as Sir George Murray, who was then at the head of the Quarter-Master-General's Department, extended to my brother, whose sufferings and manly conduct, at so early a period of his existence, had rendered him an object of much interest to both of these gallant and distinguished officers, Sir John could have known me only through private or official report. It was evident from his reply that he had in some degree misinterpreted my letter, and that he was not aware that his present correspondent was one of those two brothers to whose services he had alluded. My answer conveyed the explanation, and this I here transcribe, not so much because the explanation itself is a matter of much moment, but because it will be seen in the course of that letter that my denunciation of the Canadians as a people wanting in literary taste and national spirit, has not been the result of any subsequent disappointment, but was made before an opportunity had been afforded for testing its accuracy as far as I was immediately concerned.

"MONTREAL, FRIDAY, December 20th, 1839.

"May I be permitted, Sir John, to lose sight for a moment of the Governor in the soldier and the man, and to express the deep gratification with which your very kind and flattering note, dated 26th of November, has inspired me.

"To have had it in my power, in any way, however slight, to acknowledge the favors conferred on certain members of my family, now no more—and which I doubt not would have been extended to myself, had I ever summoned resolution to solicit them, is indeed to me a source of much gratification. The work which I am about to offer to you, whatever its merit or demerit, will at least contain that which must cause your name to be remembered in this country as long as the book itself shall endure—even assuming that time may so obscure all recollection of the past, as to leave a doubt, with succeeding generations, of the identity of those who were the most conspicuous among its defenders, during the era it embraces.

"I trust I shall not lay myself open to a charge of undue vanity, when I express a belief that the book which I am about to give to the world, will live in this country long after its writer shall have been gathered to his forefathers; nor this from any intrinsic value in the production itself, but because I think I can perceive, through the vista of years, a time when the people of Canada having acquired a higher taste for literature than they now possess, will feel that pride in the first and only author this country has yet produced, which as a matter-of-fact people they do not now entertain; yet which may then induce them to perpetuate the only two tales connected with the early history of these provinces.

"With this object principally in view, I shall distribute circulars, and thus make the existence of the work known in almost every town, no matter of how little note, in Canada; and gratifying as it is to me, to think that in so doing, I shall at the same time be the means of bringing before the more vivid recollections of its population, the debt of gratitude Canada owes to her most prominent defenders.

"I yesterday received the garrison list, which you were so considerate as to send me. I had not intended submitting it to the Commander of the Forces, but as it occurred to me, on seeing the names which were attached to it, that the omission might be deemed discourteous, I enclosed it last evening to that officer, with an explanation of my reasons for so doing. I have not yet received the list back, but should the Commander of the Forces use it in the manner you have been obliging enough to suggest, I shall, on its return, enclose it to Sir George Murray, to whom I have the pleasure of being personally known.

"I felt much the very kind and flattering manner in which you express yourself in regard to my gallant and lamented brother, and indeed in some measure one of the leading characters in my life—although of course, not historically so—I am the second youth to whom you have been pleased to allude in your note. I was fifteen years of age at the commencement of the American war, and served as a volunteer in the 41st Regiment, while waiting to be gazetted for an Ensign, for which I am proud to have been indebted to the noble Chief whose gallant feats of arms I am so inefficiently endeavoring to describe. It is indeed a source of unfeigned pleasure to me, to have it in my power to devote what talent I possess to the perpetuation of the deeds of those who have conferred benefits upon me and mine.

"My brother was never married, and has left no son. The youth, Harvey, to whom I allude, is my youngest brother—a remarkably fine boy, and who, if moving in the sphere of life he ought to occupy, would fulfil the promise he gives. I find the connection of my father's family much changed, however, in consequence of his widow not having obtained that pension to which I should have conceived his great length of service entitled her.

"I enclose herewith a rough copy of the dedication which I submit for your approval. Should it prove unexceptionable, as I trust it may, per-

* Sir John Harvey had obtained the signatures of almost every officer of the several corps serving in New Brunswick.
Named after Sir John.

haps you will have the goodness to return it to me with a little delay as possible, as the work will be out immediately.

"I have the honor to be, Sir John, with sentiments of esteem,
"Your very faithful servant,

"Sir John Harvey, &c., &c., &c."

That I was not wrong in assuming that the Canadian people would (however indifferent to the success of the book itself) follow the example of the military, which seems to be as binding on them as the laws of the Medes and Persians, I actually obtained among a population little exceeding a million of persons, not less than two hundred and fifty subscribers—two thirds of whom even went so far as to take their books when published. The other third had been kind enough merely to lend me the encouragement of their names, and nothing, therefore, was more natural when called upon, to decline their copies—some under the plea that the volumes, the price of which had been made known to them on subscribing—were too dear; some, that they had been too long delayed in the publication; and not a few, that they did not feel inclined to take them at that moment.

This complaint of the *dearness* of books is, *par parenthese*, one of the rich fruits springing from the outrageous system of piracy which prevails in the United States. Accustomed as the American bookseller is to pounce upon every new English publication, and to reprint from it forthwith, he is, of course, enabled to sell the work at very little more than the cost of paper and printing, and, until very recently, these re-publications found their way into Canada, where they have naturally created a desire for cheap literature. That an author should be paid for the fruit of his brain, or indemnified for the hours of application devoted to his composition, are considerations foreign to their purposes. Provided they can obtain what they want at a reduced rate, they care little for the injustice done to those from the perusal of whose writings they profess to derive amusement and instruction. The law, however, as it now exists in Canada in regard to books, is such, that neither the English author nor the English publisher can sustain much harm. The first obtains the full value of his copyright, while the latter sells for the English market alone. He could not, and does not, expect to dispose of any part of his stock in the United States, and as the introduction of American reprints of English works into Canada, or any other British colony, is prohibited, these colonies must necessarily look to the English publisher alone for a supply. But in the case of one who does not dispose of his copyright, but publishes on his own account, and for a very limited market, it is unreasonable to demand that his books shall be sold at the same nominal price at which the American pirate can re-produce them, and without his enjoyment of any of the profit which accrues to the English author of previous remuneration for his labor, which is so much deducted from the profits of the publisher.

One advantage, however, and it is an important one, which the British publisher derives from the recent interdiction of American reprints of the works of British authors into British colonies is, that where a colonial writer publishes in England, his works, if at all valuable, become to the former, who has purchased all right in them, an increased source of profit, from the fact that no other has the privilege of competing with him in the colonial market. For instance, a book purporting, as this does, to treat of the manners, habits, political and moral character, of a colonial people, cannot fail to find readers among that people, not from any innate love of literature which may prompt them to the purchase, but because they will entertain an eager desire to know what is said and thought of them. Curiosity is a wonderful quickener of human impulses, and frequently accomplishes what, from the absence of better and more ennobling sentiments, is otherwise difficult of attainment.

Towards the close of February, the object for which I had visited Montreal having been completed, and the necessary instructions left with my publisher, I prepared for my return to Sandwich, where I still retained my "nut-shell." As the distance to be travelled over was upwards of six hundred miles by land, and as I had my usual misfortune of being much encumbered with baggage, of which the stages carry only a limited quantity, I resolved to travel in my own vehicle, and thus render my journey one of ease and convenience. A box-sleigh, of a particular construction, was therefore made, for the express purpose of affording suitable accommodation for my baggage, and I purchased a pair of black Canadian ponies—a most useful and untiring description of animal—for the very moderate sum of five-and-twenty pounds. Black harness I had made to match, so that the whole turn-out, the sleigh and all its appurtenances, being painted black also, and only relieved by an almost imperceptible double line of red along the several borders, was sombre enough. As my ponies are rather conspicuous agents in my adventures throughout this and other long journeyings in Canada, they merit a passing introduction to the reader. Both were about thirteen hands high, and the horse—a very strong and sturdy animal—had a round full carcase, a short but arching neck, and a shoulder that required a collar nearly as large as that of an ordinary English dray horse. He was an excellent draft animal, and although his speed was not equal to that of his companion, there was scarcely any load which could be drawn by a horse that he could not drag after him. The mare, rather slighter in figure, but an excellent match for the