

the Tenth and Thirty-first, and other regiments, making about three thousand five hundred men, with three squadrons of cavalry and four guns. Nevertheless, the artillery was not much in the action. A large body of the enemy amounting to about fifteen hundred men, crossed the wood upon the left bank of the river; it was composed of the Fourth, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, and some battalions of volunteer infantry. The rest of the American army was formed behind the force, which was on the left bank. A little while after Colonel De Salaberry had made the dispositions described, a large column of infantry marched over the plain in front, and the Colonel seeing that this column was exposed to be taken in flank, an advantage which he had expected for some time, he fired the first shot, and it was perceived that it took effect on a mounted officer—a good augury. Then he ordered the bugles to sound commence fire, and immediately the companies in front opened a brisk and well directed fire, which arrested for several moments the advance of the enemy. He remained several minutes at a rest; then facing to the left, formed line and delivered several volleys. Nevertheless, by this manoeuvre, the fire from the left of this line was entirely directed upon that part of the woods which was not occupied by our troops; but the fire from the right was sufficiently heavy to oblige our pickets to seek cover behind the *abbatis*. The enemy took this movement as the commencement of a retreat, but were deceived, for they could not gain one inch of the *abbatis*. Cheers rose from one end to the other of his army, which shouts our troops returned, and the hurrahs were taken up by those in the rear. Lieut. Col. McDonnell, on the first line, ordered the bugles to be sounded in all directions, in order to make the enemy believe we had a large force. This ruse had the desired effect, for we afterwards learned from the prisoners that they estimated our force at 6000 or 7000 men. After this clamour on both sides, several volleys were exchanged. The enemy did not once attempt to penetrate into the *abbatis*. They continued, however, their fire, which was promptly returned by our left. A little while after the enemy began to relax their efforts, as if their attention had been directed to the other side of the lines. There the bugles at the front gave the signal to advance, and Lieut.-Colonel McDonnell, anxious to add more laurels to those which he had already won at Ogdensburg, came from the first and second line, with Captain Levesque's company and another.

Towards the end of the engagement upon the left bank, the enemy, who upon the right had forced back the militia of Beauharnois, commenced a brisk fire upon our left, which was returned by the left of Captain J. B. Duchesney and the right of Captain Taschereau Duchesnay. Then Lieut. Colonel DeSalaberry ordered Lieut. Colonel McDonnell to check the advance of the enemy. Captain Daly who was chosen for this service, crossed the ford, taking with him the remainder of the sedentary militia from the other side, and advanced with rapidity along the river. The fire of the enemy having almost ceased at the *abbatis*, and Lieut. Col. DeSalaberry, seeing that the action was becoming serious on the right, left his position in the centre of the front and went to the left with troops thrown behind *en potence*. There he mounted on a large trunk of a tree, and although exposed to the enemy's fire, examined coolly the state of things. Then, he gave his orders to Captain Daly in French, and

enjoined him to answer in the same language, in order not to be understood by the enemy. Capt. Daly drove the enemy before him for some time; but rallying on their troops in rear, who were nearly in line with the force upon the left bank, they awaited his approach, and received him with a well directed fire. He was wounded on this attack, but notwithstanding his wound, he pushed on with his company, and at that time, while encouraging his men by word and example, was wounded for the second time and fell. Captain Bruyere, of the Beauharnois Militia, was slightly wounded at the same time. Their men, being no longer in a condition to resist so superior a force, were obliged to fall back, which was done in good order, under the command of Lieutenant Schillier; and the joyous cries of the enemy were again heard, but they were momentary; for the enemy had only come as far as the line *en potence*, which, by order of Lieutenant Colonel DeSalaberry, opened upon them a brisk and well directed fire, which arrested their bold movement, and put them into great confusion. Vainly they tried to resist; they broke ranks and retreated precipitately. It was then about two p. m.; and General Hampton, seeing that his troops upon the right bank could not succeed any better than those on the left bank, ordered the latter to retreat, after having been inactive for an hour, though they were from time to time fired upon by our skirmishers, who were perfectly under cover in the *abbatis*. Our troops rested in their position, and slept that night upon the ground they had occupied during the day. The next day, at dawn, they were reinforced by Captain Rouville's company of Voltigeurs and Captain Levesque's Grenadiers of the Fifth Battalion of incorporated militia, and sixty men from the division of Beauharnois, all under the command of Lieutenant Colonel McDonnell. They advanced their pickets two miles further than they had already done. The day passed quietly on both sides. Their pickets were posted in such a way, that twenty of their men fell into our hands on the right bank of the river. We found also on this bank a large number of muskets, drums, haversacks, rations, &c. This showed in what disorder the enemy retreated. Our troops buried forty of their men, besides those they had buried themselves, and among others, found several officers of rank. They found two dead horses upon the left bank, and the enemy carried away many of their wounded from this side of the river.

On the 28th October, Captain Lamothe, with about 150 Indians, went to reconnoitre the enemy, who, according to Colonel Hughes, of the Engineers, had abandoned their camp the previous day. A party of the Beauharnois Militia, supported by Captain Debartsch, burnt and destroyed the new bridges made within a mile of the enemy, who had pitched their camp about a mile and a half from Piper's Road, that is to say, six miles from his first position.

Captain Lamothe penetrated into the woods with his Indians, and notwithstanding the inferiority of his force, engaged in a skirmish with the enemy, who had one man killed and seven wounded.

On the 30th Oct., a party of Indian chasseurs, under Captain Ducharme, gave information that the enemy had abandoned their camp at Piper's Road on the 29th, in great disorder, and retreated to the cross roads.

From all the information obtained from the prisoners, it appears that the intention of the enemy was to advance by the Chateauguay river to the banks of the St. Law-

rence, to wait there for the co operation of Gen. Wilkinson, who had taken Kingston in his downward march.

"*Rusticus expectat dum deficiat annis.*"

It was learned from the prisoners that the force of the enemy amounted to 7000 infantry, 400 cavalry, and 10 or 12 guns. The Canadian force engaged did not exceed 500 men, the remainder of the army being in reserve.

It may here be observed that the whole of the American force was not engaged, not more than 100 men being under fire.

SOLDIERS' MARRIAGES.

I have waited at the church on five several days for a bridegroom who was detained "on duty," and the misery of the intended bride was inconceivable. What magic is there in the hour of twelve o'clock? Should not a marriage celebrated at the hour of one, two or three in the afternoon be as legitimate as one celebrated before twelve? I fear my clerk's watch is sometimes not quite up to time—no one thinks of looking at the dial in the church tower—and I fancy that many a marriage would have been celebrated not within canonical hours if our parish watches were always regulated by the time-ball at Greenwich. A sergeant's especially a color-sergeant's wedding is often a grand affair. I married a beautiful young girl, recently, to a fine stalwart fellow, who had seen much service, and who has a claim upon the Kirwee prize money, should it be fully distributed during his life. The bride was dressed for the occasion by the officers ladies of her father's regiment. He was a bronzed old soldier, and had his left breast covered with medals. The bride was attended to the altar by six bridesmaids attired alike. This wedding was remarkable in a parish celebrated for its marriages. There are not many like it. Often only a pair who are to walk together through life appear before the chancel rails and the sexton and clerk must be the attesting witnesses. I have frequently regretted my inability to dissuade girls from marrying soldiers "without leave," but they will persist in entertaining a confident hope that they will be taken "on the strength" very soon. The wives, in these cases, are not recognised by the officers' ladies or by the regiment. They must rent a room or share a lodging with four or five others, who may be reputable characters or the reverse. The husband can visit his wife only by "starts," and she is wholly unprotected at night. What can a private save, even from his increased pay to enable him to support a wife without some assistance from the state? As long as her little savings last, her position is tolerable; when those are exhausted, she tries—steadily and laboriously tries—to earn something by needlework, by weeding or binding in the field or by selling fruit and vegetables. But it is a hard life at best, and exposed to wrong and sore temptation. How often has my interference been entreated by some young weeping wife whose husband has committed a trifling breach of military discipline, and is removed far from her for many days! But when the regiment to which her husband belongs has got the route, then comes the real misery. She is not on the strength. She must be left behind, perhaps with a baby at the breast, and another at her knees. It is almost as bad as death, a separation now; but she will be with him to the last upon his way.