

assumed the disguise of a peasant (it was that of a fisherman) in order to avoid the chance of being detained by the enemy's gunboats cruising in the river, the narrative states that "It was a dark and damp night in November, a light skiff with muffled paddles manned by a few chosen men provisioned with three biscuits each, lay alongside Capt. BOUCHETTE's vessel, and under cover of the night the disguised Governor embarked accompanied by the Hon. CHARLES DE LA NAUDIERE, his aid de camp, and an orderly sergeant whose name was BOUTHEILLIER. The skiff silently pushed off the Captain frequently communicating his orders in a preconcerted manner by a touch on the shoulder or hand of the man nearest him who communicated the signal to the next and so on. Their perplexity increased as they approached the Berthier islands from the knowledge that the enemy had taken up a strong position at this point, especially on the island south west of Lake St. Peter which commanded the channel on that side and compelled their adoption of the other to the northward, though the alternative seemed almost equally fraught with peril as American troops were encamped on its banks. The most imminent danger they experienced was passing through the narrows of Berthier, the shores of which were lined by American bivouacs whose blazing fires reflected far on the surface of the water obliged them often to stoop, cease paddling, and allow themselves to drift down with the current exhibiting the appearance of drifting timber frequently seen on the St. Lawrence. So near did they approach that the sentinel's exulting shouts *all's well* occasionally broke upon the awful stillness of the night, indicating their perilous situation which was increased by the constant barking of dogs that seemed to threaten them with discovery. It obviously required the greatest prudence and good fortune to escape the vigilance of an enemy thus stationed. The descent, however, was happily effected by impelling the skiff smoothly along the water with their hands for a distance of nearly *nine miles*. After ascertaining that the enemy had not yet occupied Three Rivers they repaired thither from Point du Lac (nine miles from the town), and remaining there for a short space of time to recruit from their fatigues. Lord DORCHESTER and the whole party narrowly escaped being made prisoners by a detachment of the American army who were now entering the town. Overcome by exhaustion the General leaning over a table in an inner room at Mr. DE TONNANCE's fell asleep. The clang of arms was presently heard in the outer passage and soon afterwards American soldiers filled the apartment adjoining that in which was the General himself. The Governor's disguise proved his preservation, and Capt. BOUCHETTE with peculiar self-possession and affected listlessness walked into the Governor's apartment tapped him gently on the shoulder and beckoned him away

with the greatest apparent familiarity to elude suspicion, at the same time apprising him cautiously of the threatening danger. Capt. B. led the way through the midst of the heedless guards followed closely by the General, and hastening to the beach they moved off precipitately in the skiff and reached unmolested the foot of the Richelieu Rapids where an armed brig (the *Fell*) was fortunately found lying at anchor which on the arrival of the Governor on board set sail for Quebec with a favoring breeze."

How opportunely General Sir GUY CARLETON arrived to frustrate the plotting of traitors within that fortress and rebels without are matters of history, but no very tangible evidence of reward or particular favor appears to have fallen in the way of the gallant seaman whose prudence, bravery, and loyalty preserved half a continent to Great Britain. It is true he was appointed to the command of the Lake Marine which Great Britain was compelled to maintain against her late subjects, and in the "Voyage dans Les Etats-Unis D' Amerique," by LA ROCHEFOUCAULD-LIANCOURT, in 1795, he notices that distinguished officer as being Commodore of the naval force on Lake Ontario, as follows:—

"Captain Bouchette, commodore of the navy of Lake Ontario was the head of all the establishments, but nothing had been allowed for expenses. This was the man that Lord Dorchester and Governor Simcoe had great confidence in. Of Canadian extraction he remained in the English service after Canada had passed under that domination. He was there at the time that Arnold and Montgomery assailed Quebec. During that crisis he entered the port in his boat with Lord Dorchester disguised as Canadians. On this occasion he gave great proofs of his activity, audacity, and courage. It is not perhaps surprising that Lord Dorchester did not forget this signal service."

The salaries of the Royal Navy of Lake Ontario was ten shillings per day for Captains, six for Lieutenants, three shillings and six pence for sub lieutenants. The sailors had eight dollars per month. The merchants paid their captains twenty-five dollars, and their sailors nineteen. Commodore Bouchette was one of the many opposers of the scheme of making York the centre of the Lake Navy, being in favor of Kingston as the most eligible position in a Military point of view.

This extract furnishes a curious position of the state of affairs in the Province of Quebec at the close of the last century, and to the country Commodore Bouchette preserved to the British Empire his grandson appeals for the justice denied his father.

We very much mistake the liberality, justice, and sense of national honor of the Commons of the Dominion of Canada if that appeal is made in vain, or that they will suffer the injustice perpetrated by a petty Provincial Legislature to be perpetuated to the lasting disgrace of the country.

The following from *Broad Arrow* of 15th March, shows the value of the monster artillery as Naval guns. Machines that cannot be trusted on trial are surely of the most

inefficient and worthless character, and those guns would certainly fail in action where they must be far more roughly handled than in mere training practice.

"*Excellent*, 13, gunnery ship. The officers and seamen at Portsmouth in training to act as instructors to the fleet, are to have the advantage (points out the *Western Morning News*) of practising from an obsolete 40 pdr. breech-loading gun of thirty-five cwt., in addition to the experience they now gain by firing from obsolete smooth bore 32-pdrs. of 45 cwt. It is hoped that they will thus be better qualified to instruct the officers and men of the fleet in the use of the present service rifled guns and machinery gun carriages. The new arrangement will have the advantage of economy, for, whatever the shortcomings in other respects, the smaller Armstrong breech-loaders, with their lead coated projectiles, and the old fashioned smooth bores, had great endurance, whereas the *Excellent*, gunnery-ship, has been somewhat destructive in the use of the present service rifled guns. Her seamen-gunners have in the course of instruction disabled a 12½ ton gun in the gunboat *Staunch*, and another in the turret-ship *Royal Sovereign*, each of which had to be rebuilt at the cost of £300. And they have also so injured the grooves of the whole of the 9-ton and 12½ ton guns embarked in the *Excellent* by firing round shot from them that these weapons can no longer be used for their proper projectiles. It was at one time intended to attach the *Glutton* to this school of gunnery, to enable the future instructors of the fleet to practice with heavy guns such as they might have to impart instruction in afloat. But as each seaman qualifying to act as a gunner has to fire five rounds whilst steaming round a target, and the *Glutton's* two 25 ton guns are not expected to endure more than two hundred discharges each, that ship must have been re-armed after training every eighty seamen-gunners. The *Glutton* was accordingly put to a better use, and an obsolete 40-pounder breech-loader is about to be supplied to the *Skylark*, gunboat, for training gunnery instructors. So long as the present guns have such limited powers of endurance, there can be no question as to the economical advantages of this arrangement; though whether proper instruction can be given with such a weapon is rather doubtful."

*Broad Arrow* of the 15th March, has an article on the "birth place of British Regiments," which we reprint as it will be of interest to our readers. There are, however, some inaccuracies in the history of the Cavalry Regiments; for instance, the 5th Royal Irish Heavy Dragoons—now Lancers—was originally raised by Lord LIGONER in 1716, as a regiment of gentlemen volunteers on the Irish establishment, every private trooper having to find his own horse, arms, and uniform, and to pay £50 for his troopers place. The great grandfather of the writer served as *Brigadier of horse* (Major) in the corps previous to the battle of Dettingen, (fought June 27th, 1743,) at which it was nearly annihilated. Out of 800 sabres on the morning of the battle 250 were all that could be mustered under himself and a junior officer at its close; they were afterwards known as the *Black Horse* having been previously called the *Virgins Mary's* Guards.