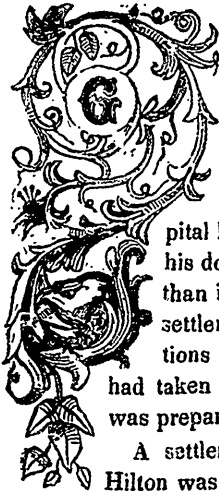


[For the Maple Leaf.

THE VOLUNTEER'S BRIDE.

A TALE OF THE CANADIAN REBELLION.



GEORGE HILTON was one of the smartest back woodsmen in our district ; he could turn his hand to anything, and was strong, active, good tempered, and energetic. Before he was three and twenty years of age he had cleared a hundred acres of his farm, brought fifty into cultivation, and built a capital log-house upon his estate. The interior of his domicile was fitted up with with more taste than is usually seen in the dwelling of a bush settler ; all the carvings, mouldings, and decorations were the work of his own hands, and he had taken the greater pains with them, because he was preparing for his bride.

A settler is nothing without a wife ; and George Hilton was considered an enviable man, when it was known that he had persuaded Agnes Denham, the eldest daughter of an emigrant lieutenant from the mother country to share his fortunes ; for Agnes was not only one of the prettiest girls in the Township, but the most amiable and well conducted. Accomplishments are not particularly requisite for the daughters of large families in the bush, and Agnes Denham had acquired quite as many of the superficial graces of life as were necessary. She was well read, wrote a clear, distinct hand, danced with spirit, sang pleasingly without any acquired affectations, and could accompany herself on the guitar. Her stock of useful knowledge was far more extensive ; she could make bread, cakes, pickles, and preserves, candles, soap, and maple sugar, and was a proficient in needle work of the domestic kind. She was, in short, the very girl to make a sensible man happy, never having had any time for folly or foolish dissipation. Her parents knew not how to spare her, for she was the sunshine and comfort of their home ; but when they were assured of her affection for George Hilton, they raised no objections. The course of true love for once flowed smooth as a summer stream, and it was