

## III.—MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS, &amp;c.

In the year 1806 a French fleet made a descent upon Newfoundland, and committed some depredations at a place called the Bay of Bulls. We expected that they would be bold enough to visit Halifax. At that time, and during the whole course of that war with France, a much larger military force was kept in this garrison than in later years,—two or three regiments,—numbering with the artillery force, probably near 3,000. There was also a more numerous fleet on the station than at present. Our Wentworth Government however, very properly considered, that it was quite appropriate, if not absolutely needful, that the population of the Province should take a part in its defence; and accordingly, a requisite portion of the militia was drafted for active service, and came to Halifax. My military ardour, at that time, being very much stronger than it has been for many years past, I obtained a commission in my father's battalion, a portion of which composed a part of that formidable garrison force. I well remember being, with many others, of similar deficiencies in the *fiery* service, frequently drilled and instructed in the spacious square of the old North Barracks which some years ago were burnt to the ground. The hostile fleet took wit in their anger, and departed to other seas, and the militia garrison were dismissed after a few months of not very arduous or dangerous service.

In the same year 1806, or the preceding one, as well as I remember, that great encroachment on per-