

said, "You are a noble boy. What is your name?"

"Jean Baptiste Colbert, sir."

"Colbert, Colbert," repeated the banker. "It is possible you are a relation of the Colberts of Scotland?"

"The barons of Castlehill are the ancestors of both the Scotch and French Colberts, sir," replied Baptiste.

"Then how is it that your father, a descendant of such an illustrious family, is a woollen-draper?"

"My father is very poor, and it was to relieve him of the burden of my support that I became an apprentice to my godfather, M. Guillaume Certain."

"Your carriage is ready, sir," said the valet, reappearing.

The banker let the boy's hand go with regret; but as he did so, he said, "Good morning, Baptiste; perhaps you and I may meet again."

At length, released by M. Cenani, Baptiste ran down the staircase of the hotel, and was bounding into the street, when somebody seized him by the collar and shook him roughly. It was his enraged master, who had followed him, and who now abused him in the most frantic manner for having returned the money.

All remonstrances from the poor apprentice were in vain. M. Certain was

At the first glance of the visitor, as he entered, Baptiste colored deeply.

"Sir," said the stranger, bowing low to Madame Colbert before addressing her husband, "I beg a thousand pardons for having thus, as it were, forced an entrance upon you; but I leave to-morrow, and the business which brings me here would not admit of delay. I am M. Cenani, of the firm of Cenani and Mazaerani, bankers, Paris. I was delighted with your son's noble conduct to me this morning. I have been to the woollen-draper's shop and have learnt that in consequence of his honesty, Baptiste has been dismissed by M. Certain from his employment. I have come to ask if his parents will allow their son to enter our banking-house in Paris? This is my business."

No member of M. Colbert's family relished the idea of Baptiste's going away; nevertheless M. Cenani's proposition was ultimately accepted; young Colbert, as a clerk, entered the great banking-house in the French capital. This proved to be to him the first rung on the ladder of fame; and step by step, the woollen-draper's apprentice, who had been dismissed for his integrity, climbed to some of the highest offices in the state under Louis the Fourteenth.

Jean Baptiste Colbert, afterwards Marquis de Croissy, became one of the ablest statesmen of France and of his age.

Sir Sam Steele---A few Reminiscences

By James S. Bond

THE death of this celebrated soldier was a shock to his legion of friends. A strong, hearty man, it was never dreamt that death by disease would claim him so soon.

He came of good stock. His father Capt. Elmes Steele, R.N., served his country well for many years during the Napoleonic wars. Two uncles were killed at Waterloo, two others met death in other battles of that stirring time. Now, after serving faithfully in this awful war, he has gone to join them on the other side.

Sam Steele and his three brothers and two sisters—both sisters are dead—went to school in Orillia, Ontario, and at No. 5 School Section, Township of Oro, Co. Simcoe.

The vast majority of the pupils going to the latter school were Highland Scotch and extremely clanish in those early days. The Steeles couldn't "spoke the Gaelic," and, as a consequence, were hated "Saxons" to the others. This caused ill-feeling, and innumerable fights. All the Steele boys were forced to fight for their rights, but Sam had to bear the brunt of these encounters. I may say I never knew him to come out second best. In later years he took lessons in boxing, and being a powerful man, was feared and respected, not only as man and officer, but on account of his ability with his fists.

During his young days he put in a strenuous life at farm and other work. In the part of Oro where he lived with his half-brother John—for many years reeve of Oro—he was noted as a plow-boy. No one in the neighborhood could plow as straight a furrow in a piece of sod. It was the same in everything he did; he put his conscience into his work.

He loved Canada and the British Empire. His loyalty to his king and the grand old Union Jack was almost a religion with him.

He was always a strict disciplinarian, and desperately opposed to law-breakers. But he was always just, so that amongst the tough class, he made few enemies. They took the medicine served out to them, but bore no ill-will. It was all right, for it was "Old Sam" who did it. That was why they flocked to join the Scouts of the Alberta Field Force, who were commanded by him during the Northwest Rebellion.

His three brothers served during this rebellion as scouts and despatch-bearers. He was the strongest of the four, and yet the first to go. Well, his life was well rounded out; he did his duty at all times, and his memory will long survive; in fact will never die, for it is woven into the very warp and woof of the history of the great Northwest.



The late Major-General Sir Sam B. Steele, K.C.B.

not only greedy of gain, but he also had a hasty temper. "Give me the money," he shouted. Baptiste handed him the amount, two hundred and forty crowns, which the cloth came to at eight crowns a yard. "Now, then," said he, "get out of my sight, you young rascal; never enter my shop again, and never more come within reach of either my arm or my tongue."

Monsieur and Madame Colbert were astonished when they heard of their boy's dismissal.

"You have been about some folly then, sir," said his father sternly. "I will tell you how it happened, father," replied Baptiste, modestly, "and leave you to decide whether I have done right or wrong."

When Baptiste had told his story, M. Colbert, extending his arms to receive him, said, "Come and embrace me, my son; you have behaved well, and you have my full approbation."

"Sir," said the one solitary servant of the house to M. Colbert, quietly opening the parlor door, "a gentleman in a post-chaise wants to see you."

"His name, Janon?"

"He said it was useless to give it, sir, as you did not know him."

"Then, ask the gentleman to walk in, Janon," said M. Colbert.

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