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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
 To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, in variably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and in the corner the words "Printer's copy" written; and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

In the sixth volume of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, at page 285, will be found an article on "the BOUCHETTE claims," to which our attention has been recalled by a pamphlet which has been issued by the heirs of the late Lieut. Col. JOSEPH BOUCHETTE, setting forth the historical facts on which those claims are founded, and seeking for tardy justice to repair the wrongs of nearly half a century, by repaying to the immediate living representatives of a gallant soldier, a true patriot, and one of Canada's most talented sons,—a national indebtedness for national work.

In the article referred to we have given a

history of this claim for actual work and labour undertaken in 1814 at the instance of the Provincial Legislative Assembly, and with the consent of the Executive of the Province of Quebec, the disreputable petty-fogging manoeuvres successive Assemblies of the Province resorted to, for the purpose of evading payment for the admirable topographical maps and descriptions of Canada compiled and published at their expressed desire by Col. BOUCHETTE. And this work, it must be remembered, did more to make the resources and extent of British North America known to the people of Great Britain than any other literary or geographical effort before or since has been able to accomplish. In fact "*Bouchette's Canada*," with its maps, is just as much a standard work and authority on the geography, social and general, of the Dominion as it was in 1814.

Our readers will remember that in the year last mentioned a resolution of the House of Assembly directed that a sum of £1500 be appropriated towards the expenses of publishing Lieut. Col. BOUCHETTE's plans—that he subsequently received £500, and while four successive Legislative Assemblies recognised the substantial justice of paying the balance for a work that cost its author over £4000, they always managed to shirk the responsibility of a direct vote for repayment.

The reason for this is easily found—local politics in Lower Canada had set against the maintenance of British rule steadily from the close of the last contest with the United States in 1815, until the feeling finally culminated in the insurrection of 1837-38. This was no doubt brought on by misgovernment and the worst kind of mismanagement in the British Colonial Office, and if directed solely against the parties to blame would not have merited severe condemnation, but unfortunately party politics will not discriminate between innocence and guilt; and in those years it ran over at full flood-tide, being directed indiscriminately not only against British maladministration, but against those public officers whose direct duty it was to uphold the Government being its trusted servants, and in this class Col. BOUCHETTE, as the most eminent in rank and ability filling the office of Surveyor General, the highest under the Crown, came in for a double share of hatred as well for his stubborn loyalty as for his great talent and ability; and it was aggravated because he took part in discharge of his duty against his own countrymen—hence branded as a *Bureaucrat* by the majority of the Legislative Assemblies over which the late LOUIS J. PAPINEAU presided, it was useless to expect justice or consideration at the hands of men blinded by political passion and totally regardless of justice or equity when in any way opposed to their prejudices. It is a curious development of the laws which govern Legislative or Corporate bodies in this respect, that they will, without hesitation, commit acts of rascality,

dishonesty, and oppression, *en masse*, by majorities that the members would not dare to commit individually or shrink from with horror as being alike subversive of honor and morality—and it is just under such a dispensation Lieut. Col. BOUCHETTE and his family have suffered.

It is, however, time that the people of Canada repaired to his descendants the wrong inflicted by a section thereof, simply, because it is an undoubted question of right, and the whole people of British North America have benefited by labors superior in every respect as far as their interests are concerned to any thing the country has ever yet produced. We see the claim is about to be placed before the House of Commons now in session, and that R. S. M. BOUCHETTE, Esq., youngest surviving son of Lt. Col. BOUCHETTE, is to be heard at the Bar in support thereof. For the honor of Canada, the sake of justice, and the fair fame of our Legislature, we hope a vote of that House will repair the injustice of fifty years, and honor the memory of a man of whom Canada may well be proud.

This BOUCHETTE family have written their names in lasting characters on the history of Canada—the father of Lt. Col. BOUCHETTE was the direct means of preserving British dominion in North America—during the rebellion of the Yankees in 1775, it is known that a rebel force commanded by MONTGOMERY had invested the Forts at St. John and Chambly—Sir GUY CARLETON (afterwards Lord DORCHESTER) the Governor General, hastened up to Montreal from Quebec, and having succeeded in collecting a small force of MONTREAL's old soldiers, led by one of his officers, he attempted to relieve St. John—but owing to the treachery of so-called British subjects who invited the notorious ETHAN ALLAN and his gang to Montreal the attempt proved abortive, he was forced to retreat, but the gallant French Canadians who had often made the *Bostonnais* run before, captured ALLAN and killed or made prisoners of his whole force. This did not improve matters much. The incapacity of the British Commandant at St. John betrayed that place into the hands of a rabble who pretended to invest it, Chambly having previously disgracefully fallen, and they appeared in force at Sorel compelling the small British naval force on the river to move up to Montreal. The principal officer in command thereof was Captain BOUCHETTE, father of Lieut. Col. BOUCHETTE, as the Governor General's situation had become critical the Yankees having command of the St. Lawrence from Sorel to Three Rivers, and as ARNOLD's forces were daily expected to appear before Quebec it became of the utmost importance to pass Sir GUY CARLETON down the river, and Captain BOUCHETTE undertook the task of carrying him through the hostile forces. How that object was gallantly effected the following extract from *The United Service Journal* for 1831, part I, page 73, will tell.

After stating that the Governor General