

and sufferings at the hands of the Americans before they had sought refuge within the borders of Canada, there to find home and peace under the shadow of the Union Jack, and inspired by gratitude and loyalty to the land thus made their own, were ready to go forth to fight, and, if need be, die in its defence, rather than surrender its soil to the southern foe.

And had the women of the day no share in this,—had they no part to play? We know the worth of our influence now for good or ill, and the devoted loyalty of the women of Canada in 1812 was a strong factor in the preservation of our land to the British Empire. On every page of the history of the U. E. Loyalists, and that of the war of 1812-14, the energy, loyalty, bravery and endurance of the women are written in letters of gold.

"Woman," says Laurence Oliphant, "is the Divine principle of man," and well she acted her part during those days of gloom and foreboding. No fear cowed her heart, no selfish thought of the preservation of present home comfort, or dread of the possible loss of her nearest and dearest, hampered the man who was called upon to defend the land. No! she sent him out cheerfully, full of hope and courage, to do his duty as a man; and strengthened by her strong heart and earnest prayers, how well and truly was that duty done!

Of the many instances of this spirit among the women, the working of this banner is one that has a personal interest to us as Toronto women, and still more particularly to many here, who are descendants of those who traced its design, through whose