

At this juncture the Intendant arose, and holding his glass aloft cried :

"A health to 'The Little Regiment,' and its gallant officers," a toast that was responded to by all with enthusiasm. When the confusion subsided, the boys found all eyes directed on them expectantly, as though awaiting some response. Jean thereupon nudged Pierre and Pierre nudged François. The latter, seeing there was no help for it, got to his feet somehow, bowed to the Governor and the rest of the assembly, and managing to stammer forth : "Your Excellency, friends, I thank you," slid back into his seat completely overcome.

Pierre then stood up, and after bowing, cleared his throat and said :

"I cannot make a speech, I can only say that all this fuss is about a very small matter. We did but do what every true soldier of France is bound to do—his duty."

Jean found when he arose that something was the matter with his knees, they knocked against each other in such an alarming manner. His mind, too, was all awheel; he had no thoughts to express, nor words to utter there with. A sudden inspiration, however, seized him, so he raised his half-emptied glass, his eyes sparkling and a bright smile lighting up his face, and exclaimed in a clear ringing voice :

"To His Gracious Majesty, the King, and our beloved Colony !" At these patriotic words every man sprang to his feet with a cheer, and every glass clinked merrily with its neighbour as the toast was drunk. Thus ended the first Governor's dinner the boys had ever attended.

Promptly at the appointed hour next day the three friends found themselves in Frontenac's private room at the Château. The great man received them most graciously.

"Good morning, Captain Ledun and Lieutenants Bordeleau !" he exclaimed with a cordial smile and a merry twinkle in his eye, as he perceived the lads' confusion on being addressed by their new titles. "I trust that last night's dissipation did not prevent you from sleeping well."

Pierre and the others murmured their acknowledgments of this kindly greeting. Motioning them to be seated, the