

*mes enfans*" said he, rising, "having done our duty to God, we will do the same by our King."

Five days before the battle, Sir George Prevost then at Kingston, received intelligence of the irruption of the American forces on the Beauharnois frontier. As he mounted his horse for Lower Canada, he sent for Colonel Macdonnell who had lately been organizing a battalion of Canadian Fencibles. Sir George asked if his corps was in a fit state to meet the enemy, and was assured they were ready to embark so soon as "*they had done dinner.*"

After a few hours delay, he embarked with his 600 men, encountered great dangers, but surmounted all,—ran all the rapids successfully,—crossed Lake St. Francis in a tempest,—disembarked on the Beauharnois shore—and in the night threaded the forest in Indian file, reaching the banks of the Chateauguay on the morning of the 25th October (having accomplished the distance from Kingston to the battle field—170 miles by water and 20 by land—in 60 hours of actual travel) in advance of Sir George Prevost who had ridden down the opposite shore of the St. Lawrence. When the Commander-in-Chief asked him in tone of surprise, "and where are your men?" "There, Sir," replied Macdonnell, pointing to 600 exhausted soldiers sleeping on the ground, "not one man absent."

All who were present behaved themselves so loyally that their decedents are still honored for their sake. As far as we know, the veteran Charles Labelle, who has recently passed to his rest, was the last survivor of the battle, and the writer of these lines is proud in the possession of the Medal which decorated the old man's breast.

A piece of land belonging to the Government (in the immediate vicinity of the battlefield) was, by an order in Council, dated 7th December, 1859, "reserved from sale and appropriated for the purpose of erecting a monument, commemorative of that distinguished feat of Canadian arms,—the Battle of Chateauguay."