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Report on the Demolition of the Glacière Bastion Vol 2 1838



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III.— *Account of the Demolition of the Glacière Bastion at Quebec, in 1828.*

IN order to proceed with the new works, according to the plan laid down for the formation of a Citadel at Quebec, it became necessary to remove a portion of the old French works, called the Glacière Bastion, to give place to a new counter-guard, intended to cover the escarp of both faces of Dalhousie Bastion, from the high ground on the Plains of Abraham.

The 5th company of Royal Sappers and Miners having been out of England between four and five years, and the arduous duties of the corps in Canada affording them little or no time for instruction in their field duties, it was considered that the demolition of this work, by a system of mines, would not only afford most useful instruction to the company, but would probably be the most economical and effectual method of shaking down its escarp.

The commanding engineer having given his permission, and obtained the sanction of the commander of the forces, the company commenced driving the galleries Nos. 1, 2, and 3 by day-work, and continued them till they had formed junctions with each other: and, with the exceptions of meeting with rock or masonry, each squad generally averaged about eight feet a day. The nature of the soil was clayey, occasionally mixed with fragments of rock; made ground, but having acquired, from the length of time it had lain together, a considerable degree of compactness.

The galleries being completed, the company was told off in three brigades, consisting of one serjeant, three corporals, and nine privates, with orders to relieve each other every six hours; and the remainder of the company off duty were employed in making the coffers, hose, and casing-tubes; and occasionally relieved such men as felt oppressed by too long confinement under-ground.

On Monday, the 11th of February, the branches and chambers were commenced, at the points *x*, *y*, and *z*, leaving each squad nearly an equal portion of labour; and, as soon as the coffers were properly fixed and filled, and the train laid, each squad commenced a fresh branch, and the excavation was employed in tamping the one just completed. (*See Plate.*)