

visions whereby the soldiers who had served in the war were entitled to land grants, he obtained a grant in 1819 of two hundred acres at what is now Britannia.

Captain LeBreton's reputation has been somewhat tarnished in Ottawa by reason of the legend that he obtained the "Flats" by a dishonourable act. The story is that he was on the staff of Lord Dalhousie the Governor-General of Canada, at the time Colonel By came to Quebec, and that he was present at an interview between these gentlemen at which it was decided that the canal should run from the present St. Louis Dam through Rochesterville and the Flats and enter the Ottawa at Richmond Landing, or where the waterworks aqueduct now flows into the Ottawa. The story is that, thus learning By's intention, LeBreton surreptitiously bought the Flats property, but that, when Colonel By learnt what was done, he, in a rage, altered the plans and adopted the present route of the canal. As LeBreton was never on Dalhousie's staff, and bought the property, six years before Colonel By came to Canada, at the auction sale, as explained in the previous chapter, it is clear that there is no truth whatever in the story.

There was, however, an unpleasant misunderstanding between Lord Dalhousie and LeBreton over his purchase of lot No. 40 at the sale, and the freedom with which Dalhousie vented his indignation probably accounts for the distorted story.

Fortunately both LeBreton and Dalhousie have set forth their views fully in writing. The writer does not propose to attempt to judge, who was right in this controversy, but will allow the letters which follow to speak for themselves,—

To,—

His Excellency The Right Honourable George Earl of Dalhousie, Baron Dalhousie Castle, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Lower Canada, Upper Canada, &c., &c., &c.

My Lord,—

I humbly beg leave to address Your Lordship on a subject which has been some years in agitation and emanating from Your Lordship, highly prejudicial to my character, and must with submission to Your Lordship, state that your