



1st Annual Report

OF THE

LUNDY'S LANE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

IT is little more than twelve months since this Society was organized, when the various officers were duly appointed, and a list of members was enrolled.

The purpose of the Society is to promote as far as possible a knowledge of early Canadian history, and to urge the duty of perpetuating the memories of the brave men of '12 and '14 in this part of our country. This purpose has so far been well sustained; public attention has been drawn to it, loyal sympathy aroused on all sides. As the exciting history of that war is repeated, and the bravery and endurance of the little bands of Canadian Militia, Indian Warriors and British Regulars is narrated a spirit of grateful memory is revived mingled with deep regret that 74 years have been allowed to pass without the erection of some substantial and worthy memorial by the possessors of this territory since that time. The Society however has now good reason to expect that very shortly mere feelings will change into the reality of substantial forms of a loyal significance and good taste, in memory of Lundy's Lane Battle of July 25, 1814, and the many brave dead of that day whose bodies were left in long trenches or scattered graves in the Military cemetery then begun.

On the 12th July last, Col. Otter, under instructions from the Dominion Government, visited Lundy's Lane Cemetery in order to see its neglected condition, and to report what steps should be taken to restore the graves and to erect a memoria of that severe Battle. Doubtless Col. Otter will report to the Minister of Militia in strong terms, the duty of respect being shown to the place where heroes are buried.

The Society's roll of membership is small, in a local sense, but numbers by thousands if we reckon those who throughout these Provinces are united in sympathy with us and our efforts. Frequent meetings have been held in this village during the past 12 months; much historic information has been gleaned, printed appeals to British Americans, have been circulated and especially among the Volunteer Forces of Ontario. Petitions also, very largely signed, have been forwarded to the Dominion and Ontario Legislatures, which

we are led to believe are most favorably entertained. The Press of Ontario has aided us very largely by frequent allusions to the history of this old Niagara District. A recent publication of high literary merit by Mrs. S. A. Curzon, Toronto, entitled 'Laura Secord, and other poems' has materially served in placing on record the achievements of loyal men and women of 1812 and '14.

The Lundy's Lane Historical Society will continue to give encouragement and assistance in promoting the spirit of patriotism in Canada, but will depend upon the County Council of Welland, to assume all financial responsibilities in connection with Memorials, their cost, and erection. James McGlashan, Esq., Manager of the Imperial Bank, Welland, Ont., is County Treasurer, and will continue to act as such for the Memorial Fund.

The Society, having been asked by Col. Otter to submit to him some definite description of the Memorial proposed for Lundy's Lane Battle Ground, suggests the following:—

- (1.) That a space of at least 25 feet square be secured at or near the highest part of the hill and that suitable access thereto be made from the roadway.
- (2.) That a stone tower be erected of a total height of not less than eighty feet exclusive of flag staff, and of a width or diameter at the base sufficient to afford a suitable room for the exhibit of relics or trophies of the battles fought in the neighborhood, the room to have an area of not less than 200 square feet.
- (3.) The material to be of Queenston Limestone, but other stone may be used in relief if compact and durable.
- (4.) That Designs be advertised for and premiums offered—each design to be accompanied by Specifications and estimated cost.

Anxiously awaiting the fulfilment of our patriotic desires the foregoing report is respectfully submitted

GEORGE A. BULL, M. A.

President.

STEWART HOUSTON, M. A.

Cor. Secretary.

DRUMMONDVILLE, ONT., Sept., 1888.