

CHAPTER IV.

THE SALE

Under the rules of Court as they then existed, a Sheriff was unable to sell lands seized by him under a judgment until the expiration of one year from the time he received the writ of execution. The sale therefore of Randall's property under the judgment was not held until December 10th, 1820. The sale took place at Brockville and there were between twenty and thirty persons in the Sheriff's Office. It was hardly to be expected that anyone living along the front, as the St. Lawrence District was then called, would be interested in this back woods water power. Doubtlessly most of those present were attracted by curiosity rather than by any intention of investing money. Considerable controversy has since taken place as to whether proper notice was given of the sale, or not. It is clear, however, that the sale had been advertised in a newspaper at Brockville and notices had been sent to stores and other places where people might see them. The sale was probably as well advertised as such sales usually were at the time. It does not appear, that any of the military settlers in the Township of March took an interest in the sale. The lot was apparently unsuited for agricultural purposes, and in addition these military settlers had been given lands for nothing and were probably too busily engaged in clearing them to think of purchasing a property which could only be utilized for power purposes, after the expenditure of considerable money in development work. The settlers at Richmond were very much interested in Richmond Landing and were desirous that the Government should obtain land there and erect a storehouse for them, as there was no place to store the goods and supplies that came up the Ottawa River consigned to them. As will be seen later, it is a fair deduction that no one at Richmond heard of the proposed sale. From the records available, it would appear that Captain LeBreton was the only settler in the neighborhood who took an interest in it. He had been anxious to buy a portion from Randall more than two years before. as the following letter from him shews:—