

In the summer of 1777, St. Johns was again the scene of warlike preparation. But this time it was a land force which concentrated there. A body of seven thousand men of all arms was collected under Burgoyne. Numerous transports were built and immense supplies of stores and ammunition brought together. On the 1st June, this imposing army left St. Johns for Lake Champlain, driving everything before it. Its fate is well known. For three months it was the terror of the Americans, but it met with a first check at Stillwater, Sept. 19th, and was finally captured at Saratoga, October 17th, 1777.

After this eventful year, nothing more is heard of Fort St. Johns for upwards of a quarter of a century. It still retained its garrison, more or less supplied, till the war of 1812, when it was again placed on its former footing.

As a military position, St. Johns enjoys special advantages. It is the key of the immense plateau leading up to Montreal. In the chain of Forts, recently proposed by Col. MacDougall, to guard the approaches to the metropolis, it would be the strongest, because the most exposed. During the recent Fenian invasion, it was used as a depot for the advance guard of the army. The fine barracks are tenantless now, but let us hope that they will not be allowed to fall to ruins.

III.—CHAMBLY.

This picturesque Village is very ancient. It owes its name to a Frenchman called Chambly, who built a small wooden fort near the site now occupied by the barracks. As the place was at the head of the navigation of the Richelieu from the direction of the St. Lawrence, this fragile work was succeeded by a fine structure of solid masonry, destined to command the river. The old fort is dismantled now, but even as a ruin it is interesting and should not be allowed to go to utter decay. As it stands to day, it is one of the most important relics of Canadian history.