

brisk wind spreading the fire, started by the rockets, to these and other buildings. Such of the garrison as could escape the flames streamed out in flight, many taking to the ice, some of whom, provided with skates, easily escaping. The cavalry made hot pursuit and about 118 were rounded up, besides about 100 captured wounded. Only about 100 rebels were killed or perished in the flames, the great majority escaping, owing no doubt to the vast clouds of smoke from the conflagration, the small British force employed and its weakness in cavalry. Colborne had, however, enough to make an example of, and perhaps as many as he could conveniently convey back to Montreal. About sixty dwellings were burned in addition to the other buildings mentioned, some as reprisals by loyal inhabitants, whose own homes had been destroyed by the rebels, and who had returned in the wake of Colborne's men from Montreal. These natural acts of retributive justice were heartily participated in by the volunteer cavalry, who did not stand in as great awe of the regular officers as did their own men.

All the rebel leaders already mentioned seem to have been at St. Eustache during the engagement, except perhaps Father Chartier, and all escaped, temporarily, except Chenier, who was killed.

The inhabitants of St. Eustache, having on that eventful fourteenth of December, 1837, listened with profit to the timely admonitions of their curé, M. Paquin, and his vicar, and abandoned positions they had prepared to maintain, generally refrained from participating in the defence of the village. The actual rebel military commanders, Girod and Chenier, were then obliged to depend on the support of the habitants whom they had assembled from surrounding districts. Among these were many from Bellefeuilles' Mills (now the town of St. Jerome), and from the vicinity of "Le Nord", now known as the popular and beautiful summer resort of Shaw-

bridge, in the Laurentian Hills, then the outlying settlement in that particular direction, and some of whose clearings were only accessible by canoe.

This latter place took its name from one of the routes used by the Indians in gaining access to their northern hunting-grounds, the River Nord, whose dark and forbidding waters the Indian hunters periodically navigated, the surrounding hills oft re-echoing their deeds of valour in war, and prowess in the chase, as their songs kept time to the swift paddles glancing brightly in the rays of the sun.

The English-speaking inhabitants of these and the surrounding districts were far from numerous and, though thoroughly loyal, were too few to do anything towards stemming the rising tide of "sedition, privy conspiracy and rebellion".

Indeed, anything in the way of armed participation in the troubles was beyond the power of those living at "Le Nord", at least, their French Canadian neighbours having taken care to deprive them of any weapons they possessed. In the fall of the year they had gone hither and thither, in armed bands of six or eight, among the English-speaking settlers, demanding the surrender of all weapons of whatever sort. In the majority of the cases the arms were surrendered without hesitation or remonstrance, though this was not invariably the case.

In the neighbouring settlement of Paisley some half-dozen approached the farm-house of "old Rafe Stevenson", a fervent Loyalist and militant Orangeman, on a commandeering expedition. Stevenson had been advised of their approach and met them gun in hand in the doorway. They demanded the weapon, and he heatedly challenged them to come and take it from him. Wisely remembering that "discretion is the better part of valour", they declined to accept the challenge and Mr. Stevenson retained his weapon. This loyal citizen's wife was as staunch as himself, being so