

THE KING'S NEW BRUNSWICK REGIMENT.

1793-1802.



I N February, 1793, France issued her declaration of war against England, and the struggle for supremacy between these two great rivals, that had ceased at the close of the American Revolution, was renewed. During the ten years of peace that had elapsed, a great change had taken place in the remaining British North American Provinces — towns and villages had been built, and rude but comfortable homes stood and fields lay where the Loyalists of 1783 had found the primeval forest ; and commerce, with all its civilizing influences and wealth-

creating powers, was assisting in the development, and laying deep the foundations of a great state, under the fostering care of the motherland. In all of the Provinces the population was intensely loyal to British institutions. Thousands of men and women were then living in British America who had suffered for their loyalty, and thousands who had followed with unflinching faith, through triumph and disaster, the flag of their forefathers.

The declaration of war, which carried so much misery and woe for mankind in its train, was not known in New Brunswick until April, 1793 ; but the mother country, with that fostering care for her colonial possessions which then, as now, characterized her rule, made provision for the protection of the weaker portions of the Empire, and with the news came instructions to Governor Thomas Carleton to organize a corps for the defence of the Province, the expense of which was to be borne by the Imperial treasury — the corps to be known as "The King's New Brunswick Regiment." *

* By direction of the Imperial authorities, Provincial regiments were also organized and recruited for active service and defence in each of the British North American Provinces, and placed on the same establishment as the regular British regiments of the line. These provincial corps were the Queen's Rangers of Upper Canada, Les Volontaires Canadiens of Lower Canada, the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment, the Prince Edward Island Fencibles, and the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles. All of these corps were disbanded in 1802, except the Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, which continued in service until the close of the war with the United States. Several New Brunswickers held commissions in this corps, and served with it in the defence of Upper Canada in 1812-14.