

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF THE
WAR OF 1812.

J. VROOM.

September 21.—At daylight on the morning of the first day of September, 1814, a fleet from Halifax arrived off the mouth of the Penobscot, and the fort at Castine was summoned to surrender. After firing a few shots, the fort was evacuated and blown up. The British troops then took possession, and proceeded to occupy the surrounding country east of the Penobscot. Bangor and all the intervening towns were taken, after more or less resistance. A detachment of the fleet sailed for Machias, and occupied that place on the eleventh.

This expedition, under the command of Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, Governor of Nova Scotia, was not sent out to pillage and destroy; but to take and hold the territory with a view to permanent possession. At the close of the Revolutionary War, the Castine Loyalists who afterwards moved to St. Andrews, had sought to make the Penobscot the international boundary, claiming the district between that river and Passamaquoddy Bay as part of the ancient Acadia. They proposed to make it a separate province, under the name of New Ireland; but the St. Croix was finally accepted as the boundary, and so New Ireland did not find its place upon the map.

Wars abrogate treaties, however; and when General Sherbrooke thus took possession of the New Dominion, as he called it, the British peace commissioners at Ghent were planning to secure for Great Britain a cession of the northern portion of Maine, which lies between New Brunswick and Quebec, preventing direct communication. Though the commissioners finally agreed to a general restitution of captured territory, it was while the rectification of the boundary was under consideration that Castine and Machias were taken.

We shall not understand the war of 1812 unless we keep in mind the fact that there was little enmity towards us among the people of New England in general. Especially along the Maine and New Brunswick border there was good feeling, and a desire to make the best of the situation. Immediately after the British occupation of Machias, knowing that it was meant to bring about a change in the political boundaries, and ready to abide by the result, the authorities of Washington County, civil both and military, came forward and offered

submission. Thus Calais, Robbinston, Pembroke, and some twenty or thirty other towns and villages, came quietly under British rule; and the active militia, with General Brewer at their head, laid down their arms and were paroled.

General Sherbrooke issued his proclamation at Halifax on the twenty-first of September, formally annexing the whole territory to the British dominions; and it was held and governed by martial law until the close of the war.

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF IT.

Charles Lamb had little difficulty in seeing the humorous side of things. To all who love his writings this familiar passage from a letter to a friend to whom he had entrusted his dog Dash will be re-read with pleasure:

"Excuse my anxiety, but how is Dash? * * * Goes he muzzled, or *aperto ore*? Are his intellects sound, or does he wander a little in his conversation? You cannot be too careful to watch the first symptoms of incoherence; the first illogical snarl he makes, to St. Luke's with him. All the dogs here are going mad, if you believe the overseers; but I protest they seem to me very rational and collected. But nothing is so deceitful as mad people, to those who are not used to them. Try him with hot water: If he won't lick it up it is a sign—he does not like it. Does his tail wag horizontally, or perpendicularly? That has decided the fate of many dogs in Enfield. Is his general deportment cheerful? I mean when he is pleased—for otherwise there is no judging. You can't be too careful. Has he bit any of the children yet? If he has, have them shot, and keep him for curiosity, to see if it was hydrophobia. * * * You might pull out his teeth (if he would let you), and then you need not mind if he were as mad as a Bedlamite."

It is one of the privileges of the small nations to amaze the world by their valor on the field of battle. Belgium is the latest example. In the Balkan war there was Montenegro, and before her the Transvaal, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Greece.—*Mail and Empire, Toronto.*

The likings of children are many; their duty is, after all, only one. It is not the task of the school to entertain the children; the true task is to teach them to do their best.—*Hugo Munsterberg.*