

on Lake Ontario. Safe of access, secure in its anchorage, and protected from every wind, it was at the same time exposed to this drawback in a state of warfare — it was open to the fire of both shores, and was, therefore, useless to either party. The river is at this point about 800 yards wide. On the eastern shore, where it joins the lake, stands Fort Niagara. Fort George and its dependency, the town of Newark, stood on the western bank of the river, somewhat withdrawn from the lake shore. Fort Niagara commanded the entrance to the river ; Fort George dominated the harbor, and made it untenable by an enemy. 4..AkuLlio04,

But the town of Newark, on the British side of the river, lay under the guns of Fort Niagara, opposite ; and though Fort George, in the event of an attack, might retaliate and punish aggression, it could, in no way, protect the town. The course of human events had reversed all human relations; and Fort Niagara, which, from its foundation, had been to the town a fostering friend and defender, had, by the provisions of treaties and the fate of war, been converted into a shape of fear and a standing menace.

The traditions of the spot are as interesting as the site is beautiful. The scene is at once historic and picturesque. Within sound of the roar of Niagara ; within sight of Queenston Heights ; surrounded by a country of unrivalled fertility; a tessellated parterre of fruit, flowers, and foliage ; where the grape, and the peach, and the apple and pear flourish side by side ; in a climate soft and genial ; under skies as blue as those of Italy, and bathed in an atmosphere more pure and translucent. Here, on the banks of a river exulting and abounding, whose winding-way, like that of the High Street at Oxford, is its main feature of beauty, and just where its waters blend with the *aqua marine* of Ontario, rise now the ramparts of Niagara and the venerable ruins of Fort George, the Sestos and Abydos of that Golden Horn.

The scene is worthy, at once, of the pencil of Claude and of the

pen of Froissart, for it teems with memories of the deeds of adventurous men. Here, in 1678, the heroic La Salle, built his first fort ; a few miles further on, above the cataract, on Navy Island, opposite to the mouth of Chippeway Creek, he built his first ship. Men yet living recollect to have seen, in early youth, on this, then, well-wooded island, the charred remains of burnt ships and other relics of his extemporaneous dockyard. From hence, in 1679, he launched his first bark of European structure, on the unknown water, of the upper lakes. He named her the Griffon, armed her with seven guns, and with his friend Tonti, and the celebrated Recollet, Pere Hennepin, dared the watery' wilderneis' of Erie, threaded the mazes of the Detroit, gave a ;lame to lake St. Clair, penetrated into lake Huron, visited Michilimacinac, explored Michigan, and closed his great career by discovering the Mississippi and founding Louisiana.

The trading post at the mouth of the Niagara, erected by Robert Cavalier de La Salle, was burnt a few years afterwards ; and, in 1687, was re-established by the Marquis de Denonville, Governor General of Canada, in a more permanent form, on the site of the present Fort Niagara. Denonville describes the locality as " the most beautiful—the most pleasing—the most advantageous site that is on the whole of this lake."

But the establishment of a French fortress **upon the** English side of the river Niagara, aroused at once the jealousy and the indignation of the Provincials ; and Colonel Dongan, the English Governor of the province of New York, remonstrated strongly against the building of a French fort at " Ohniagro ; " and in 1687 he solicited from the board of trade of the province of New York, an order to build a " campagne fort at Ohniagro."

The works, established by Denonville, were abandoned in 1688, and so remained until 1725, when the Baron de Longueuil* Com-

• This Baron de Longueuil must have been the second of the name. He had

menced a stone cavalier,,und completed it in the next year. Chaussegros, the French engineer employed, represents that the work was erected on the spot where an ancient fort had been built by order of Denonville.

With the fall of French dominion on this continent, came the fall of Fort Niagara. It had been by degrees enlarged and strengthened, and in 1759 was held for the French King, by M. Pouchot, who had under his command some 500 men. It was

served from his youth in the French armies, and died Governor of Montreal. The third Baron de Longueuil, Charles Jacques Le Moyne, was born at the Chateau de Longueuil, 26th Jan., 1724. He commanded the French troops at the battle of Monongahela, 9th July, 1755; **He** was made Chevalier de **St. Louis**, and Governor of Montreal. The Marquis de Vaudreuil relates in a despatch dated 8th September, 1755, that this distinguished officer, serving under Baron Dieskau, had disappeared in a skirmish on the shores of Lake George, and was believed to have fallen a victim to Indian treachery, if not to Indian cruelty. He was then 31 years of age. He left an only daughter to whom the tarony descended, and who as Baroness de Longueuil married **Captain Grant** of the 94th Regt. at Quebec, 7th May, 1781. This noble and exemplary lady, **who was** the embodiment of all the graceful and generous and chivalrous qualities so much prized by the French Canadians, died in 1842 at the advanced age of 85 years, an object of universal respect, as she was to the last, the object of universal love. Her son, **the Hon. Charles** Grant, M.L.C., succeeded to the Barony and title. He had married Caroline; the eldest daughter of the late General John Coffin of Alwington Manor, New Brunswick, and niece to the late Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, Bart: This lady still lives with her brother, Admiral John Townsend Coffin, in Bath, Somerset, England. The late Baron, **who died** in 1848, was succeeded by **his** son, the present Baron de Longueuil, who resides on the Continent of Europe. The **House** of Longueuil is connected by marriage with the Baby, De Beaujeu, Le Moyne, *de* Montenach, de Lanaudière; de Gaspe, de' la Gorgendière, d'Eschambault, and' several other or the old families in Canada.

And of these old families it is one of the oldest and of the most honourable. Le Moyne is the patronymic of the maison de Longueuil. They are of Norman

besieged by Brigadier- General Prkleaux, at the head of 8200 men and 600 Indians. IThe place was regularly invested, parallels opened, and batteries established. LOU the 20th July,' General Prideaux was killed by the -bursting **of** a cohorn ; and the command devolved **on Sir 'William** Johnston, of Mohawk celebrity. On the 24th July, an attempt was made to relieve Pouchot, by a French and Indian force from lake Erie. **The** besiegers obtained intelligence of the advance, and encountered it by an ambuscade

extraction, descended originally from a,Count of Salagne en Biscaye, who took part in 1428 with Charles VII. and Joan d'Arc, la Pucelle d'Orleans, against the English. This Count de Salagne married Margaret de la Tremouille, daughter of the Count des Guines who was also Grand Chambellan de France, one of the oldest families of the kingdom. [Taken from a " Chapter on Canadian Nobility" in Maple Leaves, an interesting contribution to Canadian Literature, by **.I.4I.** Lemoizte, Quebec.]

The Barony;de Longueuil **in** Canada was a creation of **the** Grand Monarque. Louis XIV, by royal Letters Patent, bearing date at Versailles, 27th January, 1700, erected the Seignory of Longueuil into a Barony, and rarely indeed have distinctions been conferred for more distinguished services. In those days it was the practice ,0 **on the** face of a patent of honour the honourable exploits of **whioh it was** the recompense. The same practice now enhances the value of the Victoria Cross. This document, which is recorded **in** the ,Register of proceedings of the Superior Council of Quebec, recapitulates, first,

The services rendered to us by Charles Le Moyne, Esquire, Seignior of Longueuil, who left France in 1640 to reside in Canada, where his valour and fidelity were so often conspicuous **in 'the. war** against the Iroquois, that our Governor and Lieutenant Governors in that country employed him, constantly, in every military expedition, and in every negotiation and treaty of peace, of all which duties he acquitted himself to their entire satisfaction ; also the services of his eldest son, Charles Le Moyne delongueuil, who had borne arms from his youth in the Regiment de St. Laurent, and **as a** Captain of a naval detachment in Canada since 1687, who had an arm shot off by the Iroquois in **a** combat at Lachine, wherein seven of his brothers were also engaged—further-
-Wore of the services of **Jacquesliolloyne de. Ste. Helene**, another son, Captain

on the side of Lewiston, under the command of Captain James de Lancey. The French were surprised, deserted by their Indian allies, and defeated. Pouchot was informed of the extent of the disaster by Sir William Johnston, and was offered most honourable terms, which he accepted, after a defence which entitled him to all that was offered. Thus on the 25th July, 1759, Fort Niagara fell into the hands of the English.

The fort remained in British possession up to the year 1783,

in the Marine, who was killed in defending Quebec against Phipps in 1690—also of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, another son, Captain of a sloop of war, who captured Fort Corland in Hudson's Bay, and still commands a frigate. Also, of another, Joseph be Moyne de Bienville who was killed by the Iroquois in an attack on Repentigny ; also of Louis Le Moyne de Chateauguay, who fell in the taking of Fort Bourbon in Hudson's Bay ; also the services of Paul Le Moyne de Marricourt, an Ensign in the navy and Captain of a Company in the naval detachment of marines in service on shore. That for these and other considerations, equally creditable, but too lengthy to enumerate here, the most Christian king elevates the Seigniory of Longueuil to the rank, name, title, and dignity of a Barony, in favour of the said Charles be Moyne, his children, heirs and descendants. Rarely indeed, on the wider fields of Christendom, have there been arrayed worthier titles to knightly distinction.

Long as is the list of those meritorious men contained in this Royal document, it does not enumerate them all nor their services. Charles Le Moyne, " who left France in 1640" the leader in the above Letters Patent named, was the father of eleven sons. It will be observed that each is distinguished by the name of the *fief* or other property with which he had been invested. Six are named in the *acte* of 1700. Besides these, two brothers, Joseph be Moyne de Sevigny and Gabriel Le Moyne d' Assigny, both died in the King's service. Antoine Le Moyne died young. Antqine be Moyne de Chateauguay succeeded Louis be Moyne de Chateauguay who was killed in 1694. Jean Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville succeeded to the Le Moyne de Bienville who was killed defending a burning house against the Iroquois.

In a memorial from Jean Baptiste be Moyne de Bienville to the king, dated New Orleans, Jan. 25, 1723, after setting forth his services, he describes him-

when it was surrendered to the Americans, though not practically abandoned until 1796, under Jay's treaty. During the period of French possession, a village, in connection with the fort, had grown up on the western side of the river, being French territory, and, therefore, more safe. The fort was looked upon as an outpost more likely to occupy the attention of regular assailants, and deter plunderers ; and the village, secure in its insignificance, reposed under its wing.

self as a Chevalier de St. Louis, and Commander General of the Province of Louisiana. He states in it, that of eleven brothers only four were then surviving. Baron de Longueuil—himself Bienville—Sevigny, and Chateauguay, and that they had all received the cross of knights of St. Louis. These details were collected in Paris by — Falconer, Esquire, son of the late Dr. Falconer, of the Circus, Bath, and brother in law to William Roebuck, Esquire, M. P. for Sheffield, England.

But the most distinguished of this band of brothers—the one whose name will live while the Father of Rivers continues to flow to the sea, was the discoverer of the Mississippi. La Salle, as is stated in the text, ascended the lakes and descended the Mississippi, and was therefore justly entitled to claim the first discovery of the prodigious territory watered by that majestic river and its affluents ; but the first person of European origin who entered the Mississippi from the sea—was the born Canadian, Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville. He was an officer of the French marine. He had seen much hard and fierce service in Canada and Hudson's Bay. He was made Captain of a frigate in 1692. He visited France in 1695. He left it with three vessels. Entered and ascended the Mississippi nearly one hundred leagues, established a garrison and returned to France in 1699. He was decorated with the Croix de St. Louis. He subsequently made two successful voyages to the same coast ; left settlements, and in 1720 was promoted to the rank of "*Capitaine de vaisseau*." In 1706, he was again despatched to the Mississippi charged with an important command. He died on his way, at the Havanah, 9th July, 1706. He was born at Montreal. What Burckhardt and Speke and Grant have done for the Nile—La Salle did for the Mississippi, but the mouth and the mysterious delta of the river, and the site of the present great city of New Orleans, were discovered by a Canadian, Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville.

the French fort became an American out-work, the whole aspect of the frontier changed. The fortress, which had afforded protection, became a coign of vantage and exposure. The artillery, which had provided defence, was menaced destruction. In the interim, in 1791 was passed the act which divided the province into two provinces, and conferred a constitution which was confided to the judicious administration of Governor Simcoe. This officer found the military head-quarters of his government at Fort Niagara, and established his miniature capital in the transfluvial town, to which he gave the name of Newark. He was a man, and a becoming companion of the, 42-4. matis, person. of this, „Unlike La Salle, he was not the creature of his aspirations. He did not, in quest of an Eldorado, or of the fountain of perpetual youth, discover a vast territory, but in the steady practical spirit, in the spirit of the Puritan Pilgrims, he founded in Upper Canada a great English colony. He was an Englishman; by birth, had been educated at Eton and Oxford, and animated by a passion for a military life, at the age of 19 obtained an Ensigny in the 35th Regiment. His first essay in arms was in America. He was distinguished at once for military knowledge, activity, and sense. His earnestness and

Howe appointed Simcoe to the command of the Queen's Rangers, a partisan corps which performed conspicuous service during the war of the Revolution, and was finally disbanded after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19th, Oct. 1781. He has left a Journal, of the operations of this corps, well worthy of the perusal of a military student. In the intervals of camp life, in the leisure of winter quarters, Simcoe had become a student himself, and had trained his mind to the discharge of great duties on a wider field of usefulness. Colonel Simcoe returned to England. He had acquired reputation, and an active part in the

debates on the Bill which divided the Province of Quebec and gave a Constitution to Upper Canada. He was appointed the first Lieut.-Governor under that Constitution. He devoted himself to the judicious settlement of the colony. The present site of London was selected originally by him as the site of the capital of Upper Canada. But, at that early period, it was inaccessible—York received, and retains the honour. Simcoe devoted himself to surveying the country, improving and peopling it. He invited the Loyalists from the United States, and he attracted settlers, military and others, by a prompt allotment of lands, and a just rule. He planted the British Constitution in a virgin soil, put it upon a fair field without favour, and appealed to results; and a trial of seventy years has justified his faith in the success of the experiment. He left behind him, through the land, the marks of his footsteps—*nulla retrorsum*. In 1794 he was ordered to St. Domingo. Thence to England, where in 1801 he was employed in the western counties in organizing resistance against expected invasion. He was then a Lieut.-General. In 1806 he was sent to Portugal—was taken ill on the voyage, and returned to England to die in the meridian of life, aged 54. Had he lived he might have shared in the immortality of Wellington. His energy and talent, and experience were full of promise. He died unconscious of the fact, that before he reached his native shore, he had been appointed to succeed Lord Lake in the chief military command in India.

His residence was in a log building, of some pretensions among log dwellings, situated on the Canadian side of the river, in the town of Newark, and known as Navy Hall. His council sat in a wooden shed, and the council-chamber was, in those primitive and peaceful days, used by Catholics and Protestants alternately, as a place of worship—the lion laid down with the lamb in patriarchal quietude.

The first parliament of Canada assembled in 1792 17th Sept.

in a marquee-tent--one remove in the scale of ascending civilization from the aboriginal council-lodge. In 1793 Governor Simcoe entertained, at Newark, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, the father of our beloved Queen. It is recorded, that if the lodging was indifferent, the fare was good. It is related in contemporary memoranda that the guests were feasted " with game, and all the dainties the season and the wilderness could produce, such as white-fish, trout, wild-fowl, roast beef, ale, old port, and Madeira, of better quality," adds the narrator, in the true spirit of the *laudator temporis aeti*, " than can be got in the present year of grace, 1862."*

His Royal Highness had been conveyed to Niagara in the King's schooner, Mohawk, commanded by Commodore Bouchette, the grandfather of the present Commissioner of Customs. On landing, " as soon as horses with saddles and bridles could be mustered," the royal party wended their way by the river road, recently opened by the troops : the *portage* road, frequented by traffic, had previously been restricted to the eastern, or American, bank of the river Niagara. The road to the cataract was an Indian path through the woods ; and an Indian ladder, which consists of a succession of pine trees, with the branches lopped short as a foot-hold, led down for 160 feet, to the foot of the Fall. Down this hazardous descent, in despite of all expostulation, His Royal Highness resolved to venture, and, with the nerve and physical strength of his race, accomplished it successfully—returned with a capital appetite, and in -a log but on the quivering brink of the abyss, " ate what the house afforded, and enjoyed himself exceedingly."

It is interesting to contrast this royal reception in the back bush, with the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in

* Memoranda of Colonel John Clark, of St. Catherines.

t Mem. Col. John Clark.

the same locality, seventy years afterwards. The endurance of the grandson was not exposed to trials such as these ; and those trials which civilization imposes upon princes, were encountered with a genial grace which reminded the present generation of the traditionary kindness of the grandsire. And yet it may be doubted if the Prince of Wales enjoyed the crowd, and the crush, and the congratulations, and the cheers, which rose above the roar of the cataract, with half the zest, with which the Duke of Kent, with the flush of exhilarating exercise on his cheek, and the perfume of the pine branches on his hands and garments, partook of the rude cheer of the forest, in the door-way of a shanty, in full front of the Falls of Niagara — the sole monarch of all he surveyed — within sight and sound of the grandest spectacle that ever greeted royal eye.

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CHAPTER XI.

Seat of. Government removed from Newark to York. Fort George still Military head-Quarters. American attack on Fort George and Newark. General Vincent in command. American forces. British strength. American force on landing. British retire. Fort George falls. Vincent occupies Beaver Dam. Description.

In 1796 all the forts on the frontier of the United States,—La Presentation, or Ogdensburg, called also Oswegatchie ; Oswego ; Niagara ; Fort Miami, were finally transferred in accordance with Jay's treaty, to the American authorities. At Niagara the change produced much inconvenience. In the short space during which Newark had possessed the advantages and the honours of the capital, it had increased commercially. It had grown under the fostering influence of centralization ; but it would have been improvident and unsafe to have left the government and the archives of the legislature exposed to unpleasant alternatives, and Governor Simcoe, with prompt prudence, removed the seat of government to Toronto, which in honour of a royal Duke, he had named York.

Newark, however, still retained much of its former importance. It continued to be the head quarter of the troops ; and the bastions and curtains of Fort George gradually rose up in grim rivalry to the more regular and substantial fort on the other side of the river. Fort Niagara still retains the strong development and regular aspect imparted to it by scientific French engineers, before the conquest of Canada. It is now a large, well-constructed work, faced with stone, ditched and palisaded, fit at any time for military occupation and service. The defences of Fort George have, long since, dissolved into huge, unmeaning, inoffensive mounds

of earth — monuments of an expenditure' of life and treasure, without result and almost without object.

The uselessness of the fort, in a military point of view, and the lamentable expense and loss entailed by its occupation, were Memorably shown: on the occasion of the hostile descent now to related. The whole British force quartered Fort George and cantoned in Newark, on the 27th May, 1813, amounted to 1340 men, with eight field guns, under the command of General Vincent—Four twenty-four-pounders;—captured from Hull, had been brought from Detroit; and were mounted **on** the bastions **of** Fort George ;" a fifth was planted *en barbette*, in a redoubt, lying between Newark and the lake:shore. Fort George afforded some defence against: an enemy descending the river Niagara, in the rear, but—the town obstructed fire upon an assailant approaching from the **lake shore:-** **It** is evident that if an enemy, superior **in** number, **had** thrown a; force across the river above the town and Fort George, instructed" to form a junction with troops to disembark at One-mile Creek",—Newark and its defenders would have been cut off, and enelbse& within a narrow triangle — the river on one side, the lake shore—obi the other, and the enemy's line the base. It would thus hate"" been invested by 6,000 * good troops in front; and exposed to they fire from Fort Niagara in the rear. **That** this manœuvre had been contemplated is to be inferred fronn the fact that a flotilla of boats had been assembled at the Five-mile Meadows, about two miles below Lewiston.— It was also a pet project with the American Secretary of State for wart

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• Ingersoll.

t ^{if} instead of concentrating- his whole forces, naval and military, on the water side of the enemy's defences, he had divided the attack; and, crossing the Niagara below Lewiston, had advanced on Fort George by the Queenstown road, the investment of that place would have been complete, and a retreat **of** the Orrison impracticable.—Jirmstrong.