

ing these two campaigns on the frontier of Canada, bore fruit in after years in a paper written for the advice of his second son, when in 1840 he obtained for him a commission in the 24th Regiment (see Appendix VI.), then serving in Canada.

The "Hints," as he calls the letter, were printed for private circulation among his soldier friends. The following letter from Sir John Harvey, at that time Lieut.-Governor of New Brunswick, is an acknowledgment of one of these sheets :

" GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

" NEW BRUNSWICK, *October* 29th, 1840.

" Mt DEAR SIR,—It will always afford me, as it has ever done, very sincere satisfaction to hear of your welfare and of the high degree of esteem and respect which your public and private worth appears to have obtained for you, on the part not only of the authorities under which you have acted, but of the community in which you have lived.

" I have not forgotten, nor am I capable of forgetting, how admirably you justified my selection of you for a difficult and hazardous service—one from the able and successful accomplishment of which both the country and yourself reaped honor and advantage.

" I thank you for the paper you have sent, but more for the warm expression of your friendly good-wishes, and accept mine for yourself and all your family, and believe me very faithfully yours,

" J. HARVEY.

" COL. FITZGIBBON,

" Toronto,"

CHAPTER VIII.

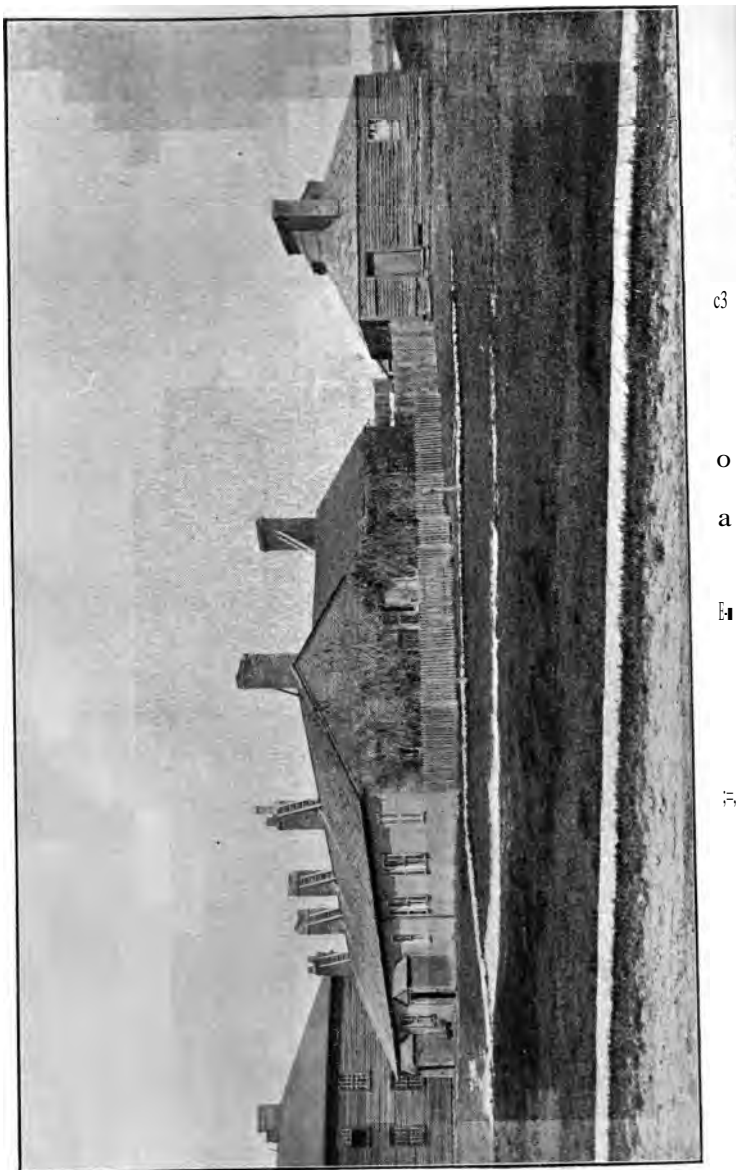
BEFORE the disbanding of the Glengarry Fencibles, then stationed at York, in 1816, the Adjutant-General of Militia in Upper Canada offered FitzGibbon a position in his office at £125 per annum.

Although the salary was small, FitzGibbon gladly accepted it. Having no private means to draw upon when extra expenditure was required, the purchase of his uniform and horse, when first appointed to the adjutancy of the 49th, formed the nucleus of debt from which he was not entirely free until within a few years of his death.

Generous, impulsive, and sanguine to a fault, FitzGibbon could take no thought for the needs of the morrow when those possible contingencies were likely to fall upon himself. He could close neither his door, his purse, nor his kindly helpful sympathy to anyone ; he would give away his last penny, share his last crust, rather than turn a deaf ear to one in need of either. He used his influence to further the interests of others, without considering for a moment that he was thereby jeopardizing his own. His sanguine temperament always brightened the distant horizon, although the clouds overhead might be black and lowering. Simple in his living, of great physical

strength and sound health, his creed was comprised in the brief maxim, " Trust in God and do good to your neighbor." Full of gratitude himself, he had faith in the gratitude of others. Knowing that the country owed him much, he never doubted that sooner or later the debt would be paid. How this confidence was misplaced and the reward of his work denied him, is the saddest part of his biography. Disappointment embittered for a time his warm-hearted, enthusiastic nature. The gradually increasing requirements of a growing family, the accumulation of debt, the petty annoyances of the office, springing from the incapacity or ignorance of those above him, and the absence of generosity on the part of some whom he had served in spite of themselves, fretted his excitable nature almost to the verge of insanity. His self-unconsciousness and frequent disregard of appearances gained him the reputation at one time of being " just a little cracked " in the eyes of the dullards among his contemporaries.

This, however, belongs to a later period of his biography. At present all was hopeful, happy with his wife and young children. Conscious of the value and capabilities of the new country, and of the field it might be made for the exercis³ of the talents, energies or loyalty of its population ; finding plenty to do to occupy his time, and being among the men and friends with whom he had fought for the country of his enforced adoption, FitzGibbon was then fairly content with his position and prospects,



.. He lived at this time in a white house within the precincts of the fort, a house which I believe at one time formed part of the barracks. It has often been pointed out to me, as a child, as the house in which his eldest son was born. It is still standing.

In 1819, finding the small salary from the office he held insufficient to support a family, he resigned it and devoted himself to the business of a land agent, which brought in larger returns. He also held the office of Administrator of the Oath of Allegiance.

In 1820, he was appointed one of the Justices of the Peace in the Home District. His name appears frequently in the records of the Quarter Sessions during the succeeding years.

In 1821, he was again offered an appointment in the Adjutant-General's office, but refused to accept it unless the salary was increased to ten shillings a day, that being the sum received by the senior clerks in the other departments.

The Adjutant-General applied to Sir Peregrine Maitland, and an order-in-council was passed to grant the sum. FitzGibbon then accepted the post, retaining the privilege of administering the oath of allegiance with its attendant fees.

In the following year, 1822, a readjustment of salaries was made in the department. FitzGibbon was raised to the position of Assistant Adjutant-General, but, to his intense indignation, his salary was reduced instead of being raised. The revenue at

the disposal of the Provincial Government was small, and in order to increase the salary of the Adjutant-General, a decrease in those of the officials below him was necessary. FitzGibbon was unfortunate enough to be the principal sufferer. Although justly incensed at such treatment, and at the injustice of putting him in a position requiring greater expenditure, while lessening the means of defraying it, FitzGibbon, believing it must be remedied, retained the post.

I have hitherto said nothing of FitzGibbon as a Freemason, although his name is intimately associated with the work of Masonry in Upper Canada. He had been made a Mason in and a member of the military lodge in Quebec, in 1803, when stationed there with Colonel Brock and the 49th. In the minutes of this Lodge No. 40, A. Y. M., held on August 12th, 1813, at Petrie's Hotel, Quebec, is the following congratulatory notice of FitzGibbon's success at Beaver Dam :

" The recent events that bear testimony of the professional abilities of Lieut. FitzGibbon of the 49th Regiment, will be duly appreciated by his country, and the soldier receive a recompense worthy of the laurels he has earned.

" All that concerns the reputation or interest of a brother Mason merits the attention of the fraternity in general, and becomes more immediately interesting to that Masonic Lodge to which he may have belonged. The members of Lodge No. 40 feel that they are called upon to express their admiration of the judg-

trient and bravery of Lieut. FitzGibbon, who they have had the satisfaction of taking by the hand as a member of their society, and they unanimously desire he will accept their fervent wishes that fortune may continue to afford him opportunities which his professional talents and manly character can improve to the advantage of his country and his own reputation.

" Resolved unanimously, that a copy of the foregoing minute, signed by the officers of the lodge, be transmitted to Lieut. FitzGibbon of the 49th Regiment.

"(Signed) THOMAS STOTT, W.W.,

Lodge No. 40.

WM. MCCABE, S.W., *No. 40.*

PIERRE DOUCET, J.W.

WILL. GIBSON, *Secy. No. 40.*"

In 1822, when Simon McGillivray, the special craft envoy of the Duke of Sussex, the Grand Master of England, came to Canada to reorganize the craft, which had fallen into a somewhat shattered condition after the death of R.W. Bro. Jarvis, the Provincial Grand Master, he selected FitzGibbon as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It was a position of great honor, and his conduct of the affairs of the craft, particularly exemplified in his courteous bearing, his attention to the work and the excellent address which he prepared and gave to the craft, will forever keep his name bright in the annals of the fraternity in this

As an instance of his thoughtfulness for his brethren

in the hour of trouble, the story is told, and though, as I have said in a former page, there is no written record of it among his papers, it is one that is generally believed among the fraternity, who possibly have traditional data for it, and there is no reason why it should not be true. It is to the effect that on the day of the surrender at Beaver Dam, FitzGibbon discovered that two of the American officers, Lieut.-Colonel Bcerstler and Dr. Young, were members of a Masonic Lodge in New York city, and for the sake of the brotherhood, which they mutually loved, he displayed towards them after the surrender many kindly courtesies which made that dark day for our American friends less unhappy than it would otherwise have been.

From the advance sheets of "Freemasonry in Ontario," by Mr. J. Ross Robertson, Past Grand Master of the Order, I have been permitted to make the following extracts which refer to the work of FitzGibbon as a craftsman. His letter was written after his acceptance of the office, and the testimonial which accompanied it was one of which he might well be proud. Both the Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretary, Captain Hillier, were members of the craft. They knew the purpose for which the certificate was required, and were satisfied that the fraternity was being placed in good hands under the charge of FitzGibbon.

The labors of years were nearing completion in

the latter days of 1821. With a due sense of the responsibility involved, and an evident appreciation of the honor conferred, Bro. James FitzGibbon, of York, acceded to the request and accepted the nomination of Provincial Grand Master. His letter of acceptance, couched in courteous and fraternal words, was addressed to the Grand Secretary of England. Bro. FitzGibbon writes :

" YORK, UPPER CANADA,

"December 8th, 1821.

" *Right Worshipful Sir and Brother* : -

" Having accepted the offer of a recommendation to the very honorable and responsible situation of Provincial Grand Master in this Province; I do myself the honor of addressing you upon the occasion.

" Although I am not devoid of ambition, I beg to assure you that I am not influenced by that feeling in acquiescing in the wishes of my brethren. I have given their request my best consideration, and have complied with it from a sense of duty and from a feeling of gratitude.

" I am not insensible to the many and important duties which I would assume, and I know that at present I am not well qualified to discharge those duties. But having had some experience of what zeal and perseverance can do, I am emboldened to hope that, with the assistance and kind indulgence of the brethren, my humble efforts in their service may not be altogether unprofitable ; and that by our united efforts the characteristic harmony of the craft will be restored, and the reputation of Freemasonry in

this province become not only irreproachable but honorable.

" I have the honor to be,

" Right worshipful sir,

" Your faithful and obedient

" Servant and brother,

" JAMES FITZGIBBON.

" TO R.W. BRO. EDWARD HARPER, ESQ.,

" *Grand Secretary, etc., etc., United Grand*

" *Lodge of England, London.*

" Since writing the foregoing letter it has been suggested to me that some testimonial of my rank and character should be transmitted, to be produced should a question arise on these points. I have in consequence obtained of Sir Peregrine Maitland, our Lieut.-Governor, a certificate which His Excellency has been pleased to grant to me, and which I have the honor to transmit to you herewith.

" JAMES FITZGIBBON."

That Bro. FitzGibbon stood in high esteem with the official head of the Province of Upper Canada, is attested by the following letter of recommendation :

J Official Seal I
t At Arms. f

" By Sir Peregrine Maitland, K.C.B., Lieut.-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, Major-General commanding His Majesty's forces therein, etc., etc.

" *To all whom it may concern.*

" GREETING : I do hereby certify that James FitzGibbon, Esq., a captain on half pay, a magistrate in this province and a lieut.-colonel of militia, is a

faithful servant of His Majesty, and of irreproachable character.

" Given under my hand and official seal at York, in Upper Canada, this twelfth day of December, in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, and of His Majesty's reign the second.

" By His Excellency's command,

" G. HILLIER.

P. MAITLAND."

On April 23rd, 1823 (St. George's Day), FitzGibbon was in command of the forces representing the militia of Canada, and assembled before the Government House to receive the colors ordered to be presented by His Majesty, in token of his appreciation of, and gratitude to, the militia for their services in the war of 1812-14.

Immigration and the necessity of encouraging the influx of population was then, in 1821, '22 and '23, as important a question for Upper Canada as it is to-day for Manitoba and the still unsettled districts of our wide Dominion.

A number of Irish families from the poorest districts in their own land—well-nigh " wild Irish"—the majority ignorant of any language but their own native Celtic, had been sent out under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Upper Canada, and had been settled on land in the county of Lanark, where many of them were employed in the construction of the Rideau Canal, not far from the town of Perth.

Unused to the ways of the country, and coming out, as many do still, with extravagant expectations of fortunes to be made, without the trouble of earning them, and with exaggerated ideas of the privileges and freedom of the New World and absence of the controlling arm of the law,—this with the national animosity of Roman Catholics and Protestants among them, resulted in disturbances and threatened riot.

Alarmed at the aspect of affairs, the magistrates of Perth applied to Sir Peregrine Maitland for a detachment of troops to be sent thither. Before complying with this request the Governor sent for FitzGibbon, with the result that he begged to be allowed to go alone to the district, report upon the condition of affairs, and endeavor to settle the difficulty before calling out the military.

Confident in his knowledge of and influence over his countrymen, FitzGibbon repaired to the scene. He made enquiries and investigated the causes of the disturbance, and reiterated his determination not to resort to arms until all other means had failed. He assured the magistrates that the mere appearance of the military would but serve as a match to kindle the flame, and insisted that not a shot should be fired until he had at least spoken to the belligerents.

Arriving at the spot he jumped down into a cutting, where gangs of these " wild Irish " had struck work and were assembled, one faction headed by a big, broad-shouldered giant, ready for a free fight and broken heads.

Facing them boldly, FitzGibbon poured forth a volley in their own language, the native Irish, and before the magistrates realized what he was attempting, the mob had paused to listen, and when he ceased, both sides cheered him to the echo. He then went among them, made friends of them, explained away misunderstandings, which their ignorance of the country and of English had originated ; expostulated with them upon the folly of thinking that any country could be governed, or order, peace or safety to themselves or their property ensured, without the law being enforced and magistrates obeyed, and ended by standing sponsor for them with the authorities for their future good behavior. —

The result of his efforts was so satisfactory that such a report was sent to the Colonial Office as obtained him the personal thanks of Bishop MacDonell upon the return of the latter to Canada. This was the more satisfactory owing to the fact that before FitzGibbon's visit to the Irish settlement, the report of their riotous behavior had been communicated to the Colonial Office, and Lord Bathurst had written to Bishop MacDonell, then in Rome, on the subject. The settlers having been sent out by his advice, he was to a certain extent held responsible for the result.

Fifteen years afterwards FitzGibbon had also the gratification of receiving from one of the magistrates, who had been the most anxious for the aid of the military, the information that, wonderful as it might

appear, not a single instance of riotous behaviour had occurred in that district since his visit in 1823.

In 1826, riots broke out in the township of Peterborough, among the Irish settlements there, and FitzGibbon was sent to keep the peace and restore order. Again was the service accomplished without other force than his personal influence and individual efforts.

An incident occurred in 1866, in Toronto, which illustrates his wonderful knowledge of and power over his countrymen's childlike nature, and the lasting impression his efforts made upon their mind and memory. FitzGibbon's daughter-in-law, a widow, then living in a little cottage on Dundas Road, almost opposite the gates of Rusholme, and one of the very few houses at the time in that neighborhood, was sitting up with a sick child. Probably attracted by the light in the window, a tipsy Irishman forced his way into the house. Throwing himself into an arm-chair, he noisily demanded something to eat. Having no one in the house with her but the children, and unable to eject him forcibly, Mrs. FitzGibbon thought the best means of ridding herself of the intruder was to comply with his demands. The noise made in opening the door of the chiffoniere attracted the unwelcome visitor's attention. He turned his eyes full upon a large half-length portrait of Colonel FitzGibbon in his uniform. Staggering to his feet, the man stared, raised his hand to his cap in military salute, and stammered out :

" Lord Almighty, save us, but it is the Kurnel him-

self. An' is it in any house belonging to himself I'd be doin' mischief ? God bless him, but he saved me from a bad scrape wanst, an' was a kind frind to me afther."

Waiving the proffered food aside, the man staggered out, reiterating alternate apologies for his intrusion and anathemas against himself for " doin' the Mike furninst the Kurnel's very face, God bless him," until his uncertain steps and muttering accents died away in the distance, and the grateful old reprobate, who thus justified his benefactor's faith in the good in every human heart, went away into the night.

In 1826, FitzGibbon was gazetted Colonel of the West York Militia Regiment of Canada. His commission is dated the 2nd January. In the same year he resigned both his position as Assistant Adjutant-General and the Provincial Grand Mastership of the Freemasons of Upper Canada.

Among his papers I find the following address to the Orangemen of Perth and Cavan, showing that he took a lively interest in the men over whom his influence had been so beneficially exercised. It is printed, but signed in autograph, and dated York, June 18th, 1826 :

"To the Orangemen of Cavan and Perth :

" ^{FE}ELLOW COUNTRYMEN, - I have recently been informed that the Orange Lodges of Cavan and Perth intend to march in procession on the 12th of July next. Having for some years past observed with increasing anxiety the conduct of the two classes of

our countrymen who have come to reside in this province, I cannot withhold from you an earnest expression of the feelings which have been raised in my mind by this information.

" When the Irish emigrants began to arrive in Canada, the old inhabitants often expressed their fears that the evils so unhappily rooted in Ireland would be transplanted into these hitherto peaceful provinces, and I could not help participating in their fears. I was also afraid that even if party strife were not revived, individual Irishmen would be found more prone to irregular habits than the other immigrants, and such was also the general opinion in this province. I cannot express how great my satisfaction has been to see that my countrymen, individually, are as orderly and well behaved as I could, under all the circumstances, have expected of them, nor have I any fear for the future, except of the evil which may possibly grow out of the proceedings of the Orange lodges.

" The organization of the Protestants into societies for self-defence was in former times, it appears, deemed necessary for their mutual safety ; but those times are happily fast passing away, and the wise and good of all parties and of all countries, now recommend to our countrymen to practise forbearance and to cultivate peace and good-will towards each other.

" Without the practice of this forbearance, and the cultivation of this peace and good-will, shall we venture to call ourselves Christians ? No, my friends, let us not deceive ourselves, but rather let us humble ourselves before God and pray—fervently pray—for His good grace to guide us in these times of increasing knowledge, and of peace and security. Who will

now pretend that your religion, your persons, or your property are in danger ? Not one : no, not one, can say so with even a shadow of truth. I cannot now, in this province, see one justifiable reason for your continuing to go abroad in processions, which have ever been considered by your Catholic fellow-subjects as offensive and insulting to them in the highest degree, and which have been regarded by many good and enlightened men as actually unlawful.

" The law, it is true, might suppress these processions ; but how much more honorable to yourselves, and pleasing to your friends, would it be for you to follow the example of the lodges in Ireland, who, from a love of peace and a desire to conciliate their neighbors, have generously resolved to give no more offence to them?

" I can assure you that the great body of the Catholics wish you to take this step towards a good understanding with them, rather than to _ have the law enforced against you, and which, sooner or later, must be enforced, if it should continue to be called for.

" I have copied from a London paper of 30th of March last, several extracts from the speeches of some of your best friends and others in the House of Commons, that you may be made acquainted with their sentiments relative to your processions ; and I hope and trust that the reading of these extracts will have upon your minds a similar effect to what they had on mine, namely, to satisfy you that these processions are no longer necessary ; that they are insulting to the Roman Catholics, offensive to all your other fellow-subjects, and contrary to the laws of your country and to the laws of your religion, the second (commandment) of which is, that you love your neigh-

bor as yourself. And that you may well understand who your neighbor is, I request you to read the words of our Say our himself, as written in the tenth chapter of St. Luke, beginning with the twenty-fifth verse and ending with the thirty-seventh, and having done this, kneel and pray to Him to incline all your hearts 'to go and do likewise.' This also is my fervent prayer for you, and not for you only, but for every misguided fellow-being who thinks that he can love God without at the same time loving his neighbor (brother).

"I might urge many excellent reasons to influence your minds upon this question, but I prefer being as brief as I can, and trust to your own good sense, which with reflection will, I have no doubt, supply much that I have omitted.

"I must confess that I am extremely desirous that our differences should be amicably settled by ourselves. Let not our proverbial kind-heartedness be wanting towards each other, else it may become a mockery and reproach to us.

"With this feeling I shall confine my communication to Irishmen, and I wish that no one else be spoken to on the subject. And here I cannot help entreating you to turn your eyes towards Lower Canada, where Protestants, though greatly inferior in numbers, are not oppressed by the Catholics, and where, without any societies, all enjoy peace and live in harmony. If, therefore, the Catholics and Protestants cannot go on in the same manner here, it must be supposed, and I fear it will be said, that it is because they are Irishmen—which Irishmen should certainly be the last to admit—and they ought, therefore, no longer to pursue a course of conduct which must subject themselves to this reproach.

"This communication must be printed, because I cannot possibly spare time to make the number of copies I want, but I will take care that not a copy shall be sent but to an Irishman; and I particularly request that it may be circulated among those only for whom it is intended.

"Let your decision be what it may, I shall ever desire to be the true friend of every fellow-countryman, or, in other words, the friend of all such as I feel you must wish to be—worthy Irishmen.

"JAMES FITZGIBBON."

[EXTRACTS.]

"ORANGE PROCESSIONS.

"Mr. Brownlow, in rising to bring forward the motion of which he had given notice, said he was happy to bring this subject under the consideration of the House. He was anxious that the attention of this House should be drawn to the unhappy state of that country in this age of improvement of commerce, laws, government and trade.

"In the year 1825, the magistrates in the neighborhood of Lisburn were called on, at the instance of the Irish Government, to meet at Lisburn, to take into consideration the steps necessary to be taken in order to prevent the Orange processions on the 12th of July. This was done in consequence of the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to the illegality of processions. . . . The Orangemen then proceeded to Lisburn, where a serious riot took place. . . . He did not make the present complaint as against Orangemen alone. He never would be ashamed to own that

he had been once an Orangeman. The King had not a finer race of subjects, more independent, high-minded, determined, public-spirited, men more determined, in all difficulties and dangers, to do their duty, according to their sense of it, than these Orangemen of the north of Ireland. His motion was against that system which pitted one set of men against another, and stained the green fields of Ireland with blood. Hence, want of employment, burnings, massacres, and that state of irritation which rendered Ireland one immense madhouse of demoniac spirits, one mass ranging themselves under any man of distinction who was disposed to lead them on, and the other willing soldiers of anyone who had the hardihood to be their captain.

" The honorable member concluded by moving for copies of the correspondence which took place between the Lord Lieutenant and four magistrates of the county of Antrim ; also copies of the correspondence with the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and copies of the opinions of the law officers of the Crown.

" Mr. Plunket, the Attorney-General for Ireland, said that the members of the Government of Ireland were all equally disposed to suppress illegal associations of all kinds, both those of Orangemen as well as those connected with the Roman Catholic body. Between all the members of the Government, as well as between himself and his learned friend, the Solicitor-General of Ireland, with whom he differed on the question of Catholic disability as much as it was possible for him to differ with anyone, there existed a sincere determination to destroy all associations of an illegal character. Now, with respect to this particular case, he could only say that both he and his learned colleague had given a decided opinion that

these processions were illegal. It had already been determined that the Orange societies were illegal, and it was of necessity a consequence that the processions of such societies were contrary to law. . . . It was his strong conviction that Orangeism was dying away in Ireland. Gentlemen were at length beginning to see the policy of discountenancing these lamentable divisions, and though occasions might occur again for popular excitement, yet, generally speaking, it was his opinion that before long it would subside, if it were not kept alive by vindictive recollections. These were disputes the memories of which ought to be buried.

" Sir John Newport said he had lived to witness many things connected with his unfortunate country, which wrung him to the heart. His right honorable friend had said that Orangeism was on the decay in Ireland. He doubted it. 1811, when the subject of Orange societies was first brought under the notice of this House, the necessity of suppressing them was strongly urged by Lord Castlereagh, the President of the Board of Control, and almost every member of the Government, but it was answered that parliamentary interference was unnecessary, as party spirit was then declining in Ireland. Gentlemen might expect to see the same results in ten years more time, if something were not done. He earnestly prayed the House, as they regarded the well-doing and tranquility of Ireland, not to be insensible to the mischiefs of these processions. It was their nature to irritate and divide. Who could say that if the memory of the defeat at Culloden had been kept alive offensively by processions, Scotland would enjoy the tranquility with which she is now blest ? The thing was impossible. Irritation must follow insult, and those

whose duty it was to extinguish provocation were responsible for the consequences.

" Mr. Secretary Peel, after making several observations, said that for himself, being known to entertain strong opinions upon the Catholic question, he could only say that he had never heard a sentiment of disapprobation expressed, even by the warmest advocates of the question, with respect to the impropriety of Orange associations in which he did not most heartily concur. It was his warmest wish that they were at an end ; and so far as that description of associations was concerned, he believed they were gradually dissolving. With respect to Orange processions, he agreed with the Right Honorable Baronet that it would conduce much to the tranquility of Ireland if they were given up, and he (Mr. Peel) would hold those men higher who exerted themselves to discountenance these processions than those others, if any there were, who gave them encouragement by their example. If the imposition of law be necessary to repress them, by all means let it be applied ; but if he (Mr. Peel) were a private gentleman residing in Ireland, he would try what he could do by influence and example to discourage them, and in these sentiments the House might count upon his sincerity.

" At a former period he expressed the opinion still entertained by him, that these societies would yield to the wishes of Parliament, and that loyalty could compensate for the mischiefs resulting from the continuance of such societies and proceedings "

FitzGibbon's friendship for others, his interest in the well-being and well-doing of the younger men with whom he was thrown, and his prompt action in interfering in whatever occurred within his cogniz-

ance whenever there appeared the remotest chance of such interference being for good, whether it was any business of his or not, according to the conventional reading of that expression, often led him to interpose where another, possibly more worldly-wise, might have passed by on the other side.

The world has long forgotten, if indeed the present generation has ever heard, the story of the sad quarrel between two young members of two of Toronto's oldest families. Chance threw FitzGibbon in the way at a moment when his interposition and forcible separation of two hot-headed youths, and the placing of one of them under his brother's charge, seemed the right thing to do. Unfortunately the sequel proved that others were less wise. When, however, some years later, garbled accounts of the affair appeared in one of the public prints, FitzGibbon, being appealed to, was able to bear testimony to the truth and exonerate one of the unfortunate actors from unmerited blame. That FitzGibbon was appealed to is evidence of the estimation in which he was held as one whose word, judgment and right feeling could be relied upon, and his integrity of purpose have weight with the public.

On June 8th, 1826, a raid was made upon the printing house of the *Advocate*, a paper published by William Lyon Mackenzie. The door was broken open, the press partially destroyed, and a quantity of the type thrown into the Bay ; cases were " pied " and scattered over the floor, the furniture and other

contents of the room left in a state of disorder and confusion. Mackenzie was absent at the time, having withdrawn to the other side of the line pending an arrangement with his creditors. The raid was perpetrated by a number of the young men, who, objecting to the utterances of the *Advocate* as disloyal and abusive, took the punishment of its editor and the destruction of the offending print into their own hands. Many of the ringleaders in this press riot were arrested; some of them, through FitzGibbon's active energy and assistance, were tried and heavily fined.

Although FitzGibbon agreed with the justice of the sentence and punishment for breaking the King's peace, he had no sympathy with the Radicals whose disloyal utterances had roused the hot-headed youths in the city into taking the law into their own hands. He might collar them and run them into prison to keep them out of mischief, but when the law punished them by the exaction of a fine, he was one of the first to assist in raising it. Impecunious himself, and unable to give it out of his own pocket, he had no hesitation in using his influence to get it out of those of others. It was but another of the characteristics of his nature. He could condemn the act, and actually sit in judgment upon it, but through his knowledge of human nature and youth, as well as his enthusiastic loyalty to the Crown, could condone the offence, owing to its cause of the provocation.

Mr. Dent, in his "History of the Rebellion in 1837,"

is incorrect in saying that "FitzGibbon sympathized strongly with the boys, and regretted the result of the trial, and regarded them as martyrs."

He did nothing of the kind. The boys were justly punished, as all breakers of the peace and destroyers of other people's property should be, but the disloyal utterances of the Radicals provoked it, and it was but an instance, a practical illustration, of young blood being carried away by enthusiastic loyalty, which in later and calmer pulses made men staunch upholders of the British throne.

FitzGibbon volunteered to canvass the town for subscriptions towards discharging the fine. He succeeded in collecting the amount, but the names of the contributors never transpired. The list was burnt the moment it had served its purpose. The Radicals, hearing something of it, endeavored to make capital of it, and rumors were set afloat hinting at the heads of several departments of the Government as contributors, and sneering at the justice in which the judges levied a fine and then contributed to pay it. Collins went so far as to assert that Sir Peregrine Maitland's name headed the list opposite a large contribution.

FitzGibbon had been wise if he had taken no notice of this, but he was an Irishman and could not resist the temptation. In a letter published in the *Freeman* over his own signature, he distinctly declared Collins' assertion to be wholly untrue so far as the Lieut.-Governor was concerned. When Collins was arraigned for libel before the Judge Willis, in his address to the

bench he accused FitzGibbon of " begging the amount from door to door."

On May 4th, 1827, FitzGibbon succeeded Grant Powell as Clerk of the House of Assembly, being appointed to that office by Sir Peregrine Maitland, and on September 8th, 1828, Registrar of the Court of Probate of Upper Canada.

The salaries from these offices were small. The accumulation of debt and the requirements of his family made it almost an impossibility to confine his expenditure within the limit of such narrow means. The sale of his commission in the army in 1826 had relieved him temporarily from his embarrassments ; but FitzGibbon was one 'Who, holding a public position, lived, to a certain extent, according to it, and not according to the disproportionate salary belonging to it. His correspondence was extensive. His popularity and well-known willingness to help his neighbor without fee or reward, brought many outside duties and responsibilities. His friendship for Sir Isaac Brock's family, and the undying gratitude he felt for his memory, for kindness which no after services of his to any one of his beloved colonel's family could ever repay, brought him the trouble and expense of trusteeship, executorship, etc., the postage alone such offices entailed being a considerable item of expenditure. Among his papers are many letters acknowledging these efforts, and his generous assistance in managing their business matters.

' In 1831, we find FitzGibbon's commission as Colonel

of the 2nd West York Regiment of Militia, ante-dated January 2nd, 1826, and redate' March 19th 1831.

Party spirit in the Canadas, and particularly in the Upper Province, ran very high at this period. William Lyon Mackenzie, the talented leader of the party whose radical opposition to the Family Compact and its supporters terminated later in open rebellion, was the publisher and proprietor of the most outspoken radical organ. He was a member of the House, and had spoken forcibly against acts which he considered abuse of the executive power placed in the hands of the Government by the people.

Since the days of " I, Peter Russell, grant to you, Peter Russell " notoriety, members of the House had obtained grants of Crown lands, over which the Executive and not the Legislature held control, to the extent of from five hundred to two thousand acres each, on simply paying the fees exacted by the officials.* This was one of the grievances against which Mackenzie spoke. The grants were perfectly legal, but it was against them as a system which permitted of abuse that he strove. Although Mac-

* Grants of land were in the early days of the Province entirely subject to the discretion of the Governor-in-Council. Official dignitaries granted lands to their servants and other dependants, which, as soon as certain 'requisite forms were complied with, were transferred to themselves. When the Hon. Peter Russell held the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, he is said to have used his power to acquire lands in the manner quoted above.

kenzie was expelled the House on a question of privilege, an Act was eventually passed to prevent the alienation of Crown lands as rewards for public services. How this Act affected FitzGibbon's fortune will be seen later.

A brief epitome of Mackenzie's case may not be amiss here, as it will explain FitzGibbon's share in the events of that date.

While a member, he had at his own cost distributed copies of the journals of the House, without note or comment, unaccompanied by the appendix. For this, as a breach of privilege, he was expelled.

The second time, a libel published in a newspaper, and of which he acknowledged the authorship, was made the ground of expulsion.

A third time, the House declared the previous decisions rendered him incapable of taking his seat.

The fourth time, though unanimously elected, because unopposed, his election was declared void.

The fifth time he was not allowed to take the oath or his seat, being forcibly ejected from the space below the bar on a motion to clear the House of strangers, and finally, after taking the oath, he was again dragged from his seat by the Sergeant-at-Arms and condemned to silence under threat of imprisonment.

Mackenzie and FitzGibbon had several passages at arms over various matters connected with the printing for the Government, which was done by the former's printing-house. Some of those were based upon very small provocation, if we may judge by letters extant,

on such apparently trivial items as the omission of certain blanks in the printed copies of the journals of the House on the score of an infinitesimal economy.

Mackenzie also complained in one of his petitions for redress to the Governor-in-Council, that FitzGibbon had refused to administer the oath to him upon taking his seat, to which FitzGibbon replied by the assertion that he had not done so upon his own authority, nor could he administer the oath to any one on taking a seat that had been declared vacant by the Assembly.

After Mackenzie's second expulsion from the House, the vote being carried by twenty-seven to nineteen, he appealed to the people to resent the outrage as against their constitutional privileges. A sense of the wrong he conceived he had suffered at the hands of the Government goading him into the use of stronger language than he might otherwise have employed, and his eloquence being of a kind which attracted a turbulent class of followers, public feeling on both sides was roused to a height that threatened riot.

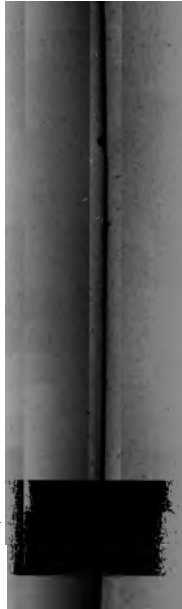
A stormy meeting was held in Hamilton" on the evening of the 19th March, 1832, at which both sides claimed the victory. An attempt to assault Mackenzie was made the most of by rumor and excited sympathizers, and a meeting called for the 23rd, in York, promised to be a stormy one. The meeting assembled at the court house. Dr. Dunlop and Mr. Ketchum were respectively proposed as chairman, and both declared

elected. Dunlop took the chair and the Reformers withdrew and organized an open-air meeting in front of the court house, making use of a farmer's waggon as a platform. When Mackenzie attempted to address this meeting, his opponents were not slow in expressing their antagonism, accentuating it by the material argument of stones and other missiles. The riot soon assumed an alarming aspect, and the sheriff, declaring himself unable to preserve the peace, begged Mr. Ketchum to bring the meeting to a close. Through the diplomatic suggestion that "The friends of the Governor might adjourn to Government House and cheer His Excellency," the attention of many was distracted.

During their absence Mackenzie addressed the meeting, and an address to the King being drawn up, setting forth their grievances, many signed it. Many who had not signed it before went with Mackenzie to the corner of Church and Richmond Streets, where, on tables in the street, four hundred and thirty-eight names were added.

So far I have quoted almost entirely from Mr. Charles Lindsey's "Life of William Lyon Mackenzie." The remainder I may now take from FitzGibbon's papers.

Rumors of the uproar reaching FitzGibbon, and hearing that the mob were not only threatening to burn Mackenzie in effigy, but intended to attack and destroy the office of the offending paper, he hastened to the scene. He found the streets full, the crowd



denser and more excited as he approached the printing-house. A shot from one of the windows, answered by a volley of stones, was the signal for a general rush upon the building. FitzGibbon forced his way rapidly through the crowd, his height and strength, as well as his being recognized by all as one having authority, assisting his progress. Seizing two of the most excited instigators of the riot by the collar, he dragged them to the gaol close by, and returning took his stand on the steps of the house. Raising his voice that he might be heard above the noise, he called upon all the loyal and true men to aid him in making a stand against the rioters.

Mackenzie demanded that the military be called out. FitzGibbon flatly refused, assuring him that there were enough good men in the crowd to aid him to restore order without the intervention of the military, adding, however, an emphatic request that he (Mackenzie) would retire, as his presence was the chief cause of the disturbance.

"I will not retire, sir," replied Mackenzie, "I have as good a right to be here as you have."

"Very well," cried FitzGibbon, "if you do not I will put you in gaol, too."

"You dare not, I am a member of Parliament," shouted Mackenzie.

He little knew the man he had to deal with. Instead of replying, FitzGibbon proceeded to put his threat into execution and was actually dragging the

future rebel to the gaol when two of his friends, also members of Parliament, appeared.

Appealing to them, FitzGibbon begged they would take care of Mackenzie, as he had no wish to imprison him ; if they could persuade him to retire, he (FitzGibbon) would protect them while doing so. Then turning to the crowd he called out, " Mr. Mackenzie calls upon me to order out the troops; but I will not insult you by complying with his demand. I will rather call upon you, and you, and you " (indicating individuals in the crowd), " and will -find good men enough to ensure the keeping of the King's peace."

This appeal was answered by a shout of approbation. Mackenzie and his friends were then allowed to retire without further molestation. Upon reaching his house, Mackenzie, deceived probably by his immunity from attack while under FitzGibbon's protection, turned and wished to again address the mob. This was no part of the soldier's plan. Taking Mackenzie by the shoulders he put him forcibly but quietly inside and shut the door on him.

The two other members, Messrs. Macintosh and Ketchum, again begged that troops should be called out, if only to be stationed in the court house during the night, but FitzGibbon was firm. The danger was over for the present, and he would himself incur the responsibility and remain at the court house with a sufficient number of special constables to see that all remained quiet. Apparently satisfied they left him.

A short time after, Colonel Foster, Assistant

Adjutant-General of the Forces in Upper Canada, galloped up and, alighting, desired FitzGibbon to mount and go at once to Government House, where the Lieut.-Governor wished to see him. FitzGibbon obeyed and found Sir John Colborne anxiously awaiting him. The two members, Messrs. Macintosh and Ketchum, had just applied to him to order out the troops to keep the peace during the night, but before complying with the request the Governor had sent for FitzGibbon to learn if the troops were necessary.

" I pray of your Excellency," replied FitzGibbon, " to do nothing of the kind."

" Had I not better augment the guard on the Bay side, and have men at hand there ? "

" Pray do not, sir."

" Well, then," said Sir John, " I will order a picket to be in readiness 'in the garrison, to turn out at a moment's notice if required."

" For God's sake, sir, do nothing of the kind. Give no order whatever. I am convinced that it is a great object with Mr. Mackenzie' and his party to have the troops called out. They have been outnumbered and beaten to-day, and they now desire to have the troops called out, in order that they may be able to proclaim to the Province to-morrow, that "but for the interference of the troops they would have triumphed." No troops were called out, and quiet was maintained without them.

From the reminiscences of an old Upper Canada

College boy I have gathered something of the impression FitzGibbon made upon those about him at the time :

" I first went to college in 1831, my brother Lewis and I being the first sent from this district," writes William Wallbridge, of Belleville. "I remember Col. FitzGibbon well. He was a remarkable-looking man. I remember him in the House, for, not caring much to join my companions in their games, I used to find my way there.

" The Legislative Assembly then held its sittings in the old building opposite the market-place on Bing Street. I was particularly struck with the Clerk, a tall man, straight, upright, and decidedly military in his carriage, his clear incisive voice and prompt performance of his duties. I frequently met him on the way to the House, at the corner where St. Andrew's Church now stands, his height and soldierly appearance, as well as an eccentric habit he had of carrying his tall hat on the end of his cane, slightly above his head, instead of wearing it, that the air might circulate freely about his head, attracting my attention.. His hair was always cut as closely as possible, a fashion more noticeable then than it would be now.

" In 1832, when the cholera was raging in Toronto—(it was bad in '34, but nothing to what it was in '32)—FitzGibbon was the prominent man. It was he who arranged and organized every plan for the care and comfort of the sick, and the decent burial of the dead. He was here, there and everywhere. He was

afraid of nothing, whether in the removal of the sick to the hospital or in conveying the dead to the grave. I remember seeing him once with two carts close to the college, one for the dead, the other for the dying. He was standing near, and with his own hands assisting in their removal. He seemed to have a charmed life, to need no rest, and to be as exempt from contagion as he had been from the enemy's fire on the field of battle. He was not acting under any authority from the Government or city, but solely and entirely on his own responsibility, and through pity for the sufferers."*

[The General Hospital was west of the Upper Canada College on Russell Square ; and it was opposite this building, standing, as it does, slantwise to the street, that Mr. Wallbridge remembered seeing FitzGibbon attending to the removal of the plague-stricken people in 1832.]

" Toronto was a different place then to what it is now. There was not a foot of pavement in the whole city, except it might be a plank or two set down between a few doorways. During the spring and autumn, the streets resembled freshly ploughed fields, the mud particularly adhesive and heavy.

"I saw FitzGibbon frequently during the years 1832, '33 and '34, and heard all about the political

* Dickson, in his " History of Upper Canada College," speaks of FitzGibbon as "risking his life to labor night and day during the Cholera seasons of 1832 and 1834."

struggles of those days. I was in Toronto when Mackenzie's meeting was held in the market-place in 1834. A fine new market-house had been built at that time, with projecting hoods or roofs over the butchers' stalls. Underneath these hoods great hooks were fastened, on which the butchers hung their quarters of beef. The meeting was such an exciting one that every available place from which to hear the speakers was crowded, and many of the lads climbed upon these hoods. The one Geo. FitzGibbon was on gave way, and in falling he was impaled on one of the hooks beneath. He lived only a few hours after he was extricated."

" On the coldest day in winter," writes another old college boy, Mr. D. B. Read,* " Colonel FitzGibbon walked into town carrying his hat in his hand. He had, no doubt, an overheated brain, but it burned in the right direction. He had uncompromising integrity and undoubted courage."

FitzGibbon's simple faith that while he was doing his chity, comprised in the broad creed of " doing good to his neighbor," he was in God's hands an instrument for His work, carried him safely through scenes and sights their nervous fears unfitted others to cope with. Firmness combined with the personal influence courage gives over weaker minds, as well as the almost superstitious belief of the poor in his immunity from death, ensured obedience to his direc-

tions and reliance upon their efficacy. Excitable end ;mpulshTe when irritated by causeless opposition, he was prompt, cool and clear-headed enough in the moment of action to impress with confidence the men he led or the sick he succored. Many a terrified soul went home to its rest in the hope of mercy and forgiveness breathed into the ears of the dying body by the faithful soldier.

FitzGibbon's printed address to the Orangemen in 1826 had helped to induce them to desist from their processions in the public streets. For eight years none of the lodges in Toronto had held any such demonstration. In 1834, however, some recent arrivals from Ireland persuaded them to turn out again. .Fitz-Gibbon anticipated the result, and took precautions to lessen the evil, although he could not prevent it altogether.

Early on the morning of the 12th, he called upon Sir John Colborne, Lieut.-Governor of Upper Canada, and communicated his fears to him, and the means he had employed to endeavor to prevent their being realized, reiterating his desire that every effort might be made for peace without the intervention of the military.

FitzGibbon speaks of the riot which occurred as much more serious than that of 1832, and one that required much greater effort on his part to succeed in quelling, although he was ably assisted by several of the magistrates. His greatest satisfaction appears

*The author of the " Life of Simcoe," " The:Ferer,Judges," etc.

to have been in the fact that the riot was ended and quiet restored without having to call out the troops.

It was during these years that Mrs. Jamieson, the authoress, was in Canada, and became one of FitzGibbon's most intimate friends. Mr. Jamieson succeeded J. H. Boulton as Attorney-General, and though unfitted for the post at such a critical period in the affairs of the colony, was not very fairly treated by the Government which placed him in that position. Mrs. Jamieson's reminiscences of Canada in her "Winter Studies," contain several anecdotes of FitzGibbon and her interest in "the simple-minded, generous, brave, capable, as well as remarkable man"

FitzGibbon's only daughter and eldest child was often with the authoress, who was wont to say of her that "she was one of the most truly ladylike and aristocratic women she had met in Canada."

FitzGibbon had seventeen children born to him, but only his daughter and four 'elder sons lived to grow up. Of their childhood and the companionship of their father, many pages might be written.

Knowing the value and advantages of education, he not only availed himself of every opportunity of obtaining it for them from outside sources, but; endeavored, by entering into their studies, to make them practical and entertaining. In his life-book the definition of a gentleman was, "one who would not hurt another's feelings by word or deed, but was ever ready to lend a courteous hand to help in time of need." His manner was as courteous and kind to the

humblest as to the highest among his acquaintances. A story told of him, or rather a remark made by one of his greatest admirers, a canny Scot, to whom he owed money, goes to show how this pleasant manner often stood his friend :

"Ay, ay, the Colonel is a fine mon ; he'll aye shakit ye verra kindly by the han', but na word about the pay.

FitzGibbon lived at this date (1831 to 1840) in a two-storied rough-cast house at the south-west corner of what is now Queen Street and Spadina Avenue. The house stood a hundred feet, more or less, back from the road. Four large willows* grew by the edge of the roadway before it. The usual route followed by the colonel to his office, and the boys to college, was along the shore of the bay.

Upon the morning the new buildings of the college were opened, the boys were in great haste to set out. Their father walked with them. Some of their school-mates, many of whose names are first on the list of "old boys" of Upper Canada College, lived in the opposite direction, east of the college, their route also being along the shore on the space between Front Street and the lake, known afterwards as the Esplanade. Each party catching sight of the other at the same moment, when about equidistant from the college, the same idea seemed to occur to both.

"Run, boys," cried the colonel, "and we'll beat

* These willows have been taken down since 1870.

them." A race ensued, the dignified Clerk of the House racing along with the boys as keenly interested in the result as they were, and no whit behind them in speed.

" And we won, too. We got in first, though by little more than a neck," says one of the boys ; " and my father was prouder of that half-dozen steps than if we had beaten by a dozen yards."

In 1832 or 1833, a woman had a small house or shanty built in the rear of the college in McDonnell's field. The house was not more than fifteen feet square. In this she kept a tiny shop or stall for the sale of apples, sugar-sticks and other such school-boy delights, finding her principal customers in the college. Every one of the boys knew the old dame She was often teased and chaffed by the " young gentlemen," all of which she took in good part, resenting only what she designated as "fine airs."

One day, one of the FitzGibbons apparently offended her in this way. She retaliated by the taunt that " their father was not a gentleman, he having risen from the ranks and was only a common soldier."

Furious with indignation, the boy ran to his father to deny it. Amused, yet knowing the old woman must have had some provocation, FitzGibbon questioned the boy, and learned that he had really been rude and overbearing. On reaching the college the next morning he took the boy to the old woman's stall.

" Good morning, Mrs. _____, I have brought my

lad with me to apologize for his rudeness to you yesterday, that you may believe his father is a gentleman, though he did rise from the ranks, and cannot allow his son to prove himself anything else."

On the 6th of March, 1834, the town of York had its limits extended and was erected into a corporate city, and its original name Toronto restored to it.

There has been much controversy at various times over the origin and meaning of this name, Toronto. I think it is not difficult to find. T-wan-to, pronouncing the letters as if French, is the Ojibeway word for " shelter from wind," virtually " a harbor." The present pronunciation of the word and its consequent spelling is due to the preponderance of the Irish among the residents and legislators, when the name was first pronounced and written by the aborigines' successors.*

On the 15th, a proclamation was issued calling a poll for the election of aldermen and common councilmen on the 27th. In this election the Reformers had the majority, and chose Wm. Lyon Mackenzie as their mayor.

Owing to the necessity of funds for municipal expenses, it was requisite to obtain a loan. To meet this demand of the city treasury, a rate of 3d. in the pound was levied. This was deemed an exorbitant

* The name "Toronto" is to be found on old maps of Upper Canada at various points on the lakes, where the Indians sheltered their canoes. (See Bouchette's History of Canada.)

tax, and roused such popular indignation that a meeting was called to enable the corporation to explain the necessity, and give an account of the city debt and required expenditure.

The meeting was a stormy one, and was finally adjourned until the following day, July 30th, to be held in the market-place. This was the meeting referred to by Mr. Wallbridge.

Mr. Lindsey, in his "Life of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie," tells us this "building was a parallelogram, and over the butchers' stalls a balcony to accommodate spectators was hastily run up.

"When the sheriff (Jarvis) was addressing the meeting in support of his vote of censure on the conduct of the mayor, he said :

"I care no more for Mackenzie '—then looking about him at a loss for a comparison, he, school-boy like, looked upwards, and seeing a crow flying overhead, added—' than that crow.' "

"This elicited a cheer and a stamping from the crowd on the balcony, many of them mere lads, who naturally turned about to see what sort of crow it was that had come so opportunely to the sheriff's assistance. The hastily built erection strained and collapsed, precipitating the crowd upon it to the ground, breaking limbs and bruising many, and impaling others upon the great hooks of the butchers' stalls beneath."

The last was the unfortunate fate (before alluded to) of FitzGibbon's third son, George, a fine promising

lad of sixteen, whose ready wit and brilliant sallies were the life of his school-mates, and whose abilities promised future success at the Bar, the profession to which he had been early destined by his father.

FitzGibbon's grief and horror were great. The boy lived only a few hours, but in such agony that the bereaved father was grateful to see the bright eyes close in death and the agonized limbs at rest.

In 1835, Fitz Gibbon's eldest son, Charles, left home for the first time. He had studied for the Bar and passed his examination, but a visit to Dublin, where FitzGibbon's father and brothers were then residing, and an offer of a post in an uncle's business there, seemed to promise more speedy returns than the practice of the law in Canada.

The following letter was written upon receipt of the tidings of his son's change of plans :

"MY DEAR CHARLES,-I have but a short time to commit to paper a few items of advice for your future guidance. Attention to some of these has helped me much to conquer the many difficulties which ever beset the path of him who has to ascend by his own unaided exertions.

"Spare no pains to acquire a thorough knowledge of the business in your uncle's establishment, and conduct his affairs as much as you possibly can exactly as you think he wishes to have them conducted. Remember that in proportion as you succeed, you will lighten the burden of his cares and anxieties, and increase his kindness and affection towards you.

"Comport yourself towards your aunt with affec-

tionate deference, even to the minutest attentions, and to the children be affectionate and kind ; and be the same to the Martins " [other cousins]. " Confine yourself to the circle of acquaintances to which your uncle will introduce you, and studiously decline every other. For, be assured that it is incompatible with due attention to your business to cultivate society at all while in the early part of your progress.

" Against smoking and against drinking I need not, and against any other vice, I almost flatter myself, I need not warn you. But the passions require to be guarded against with great diligence. I therefore recommend you to fight the battle against them, one and all, at first and in the outset. To keep the high and happy ground of innocence is much more easy than to return to it, if once you take a downward step. I wish I could convey to your mind a part of the impression made on mine by the many melancholy examples I have seen in the army, of young men who could not -abstain from what they called pleasure, but which soon brought them to disappointment, misery and a wretched end.- Every temptation you successfully resist will strengthen your moral courage, and you will soon find yourself to be of too much value to your parents, to your relatives and to yourself, to become an unworthy and degraded being. Be assured that the Almighty will guide you from usefulness to eminence and happiness, if you carefully and devoutly turn to Him for help and support.

" Attend punctually to the duties of your Church, not for form's sake, or for the approbation of the world, though this is well worth having,—but for strength from above to enable you to resist temptation and to do good. Your good example has already

helped to improve your younger brothers, and the continuance of it will still ensure our gratitude to you ; but especially for your mother's and Mary's sake and mine, do all you can to make us rejoice in you.

" The last words my father spoke to me, when I first parted from him in Glin were, ' The greatest consolation I have, James, on your leaving me, is that I feel confident you will never do anything to disgrace me.' And you must tell him that I write these words now with tears of satisfaction that I never forgot them, and am sure I never shall, and that I hope the blessing which attended them will be seen to extend to his grandson under his own eyes in his old age. Be to him what my brothers and I were to our grandfather, and may God Almighty bless you all.

" TORONTO, UPPER CANADA,

" *September 11th, 1835.*"

In November of the same year, FitzGibbon's second son was called to the Bar of Upper Canada.

Riotous proceedings having occurred among the laborers employed in the construction of the canal below Cornwall, Sir Francis Head sent FitzGibbon to restore peace among his excitable countrymen. Fears were entertained that advantage would be taken of their antagonism to their French fellow-laborers during the elections of 1836, and more serious trouble be the result.

FitzGibbon was ordered to take fifty stand of arms and ammunition from Kingston to distribute to the local militia in the event of requiring their assistance.

The service was, however, successfully performed,

and the elections, which were important, party feeling having been excited almost to rebellion by the questions at issue, passed without riots. As on former occasions, FitzGibbon trusted to his personal influence, and did not require the aid of the militia.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace for the Eastern District about this date (June 18th, 1836), probably in order to give him authority to enforce the law against the riotous workmen he was sent to pacify.

When he sold his commission in the army in 1826, FitzGibbon had purchased eighteen acres of land in Toronto, on the west side of what is now Spadina Avenue, and south of Queen Street. He knew that Canada was a land of great promise, and, time alone was required to develop her resources. Toronto was one of the earliest settled cities, and had a population whose descendants were likely to reap a rich harvest from their small sowings. Knowing this, he considered this purchase one that would in time be an ample provision for his children and grandchildren, and was anxious to retain it at all cost to himself.

Dent (in his "History of the Rebellion of 1837") speaks of FitzGibbon as "a persistent office-seeker." He was, indeed, active and energetic in mind as well as body, and was always ready to undertake more work. The expenses of living, as well as of carrying on the various schemes (small though they might be), that he considered incumbent upon him as a loyal officer of the Crown and a true subject, required

means to defray their cost, and FitzGibbon doubtless refused no honest opportunity of earning what was required. He held several posts, but the aggregate salary was not a large one.

The following letter from Sir John Colborne, through his Secretary, evidently refers to one of these offices :

"GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
" TORONTO, *Jan.* 20th, 1838.

" SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 12th inst., I am directed by the Lieut.-Governor to assure you that His Excellency is so fully persuaded of your zeal and active services while he has been in the Province, that he has long been desirous of having an opportunity of conferring on you an appointment which might in some respects be more- in accordance with your views and wishes.

" His Excellency thinks it but due to you to express his thanks for your exertions on many occasions in the public service, and to notice the sacrifices which you have made of your time and health, in carrying on the various duties which you have been entrusted to discharge.

" I am also to add that His Excellency will leave a copy of this letter with his successor, in order that your character and services may be made known to him.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

" Your obedient servant,

" W. ROWAN.

" JAMES FITZGIBBON, Esq."