

NAVAL DINNER TO THE LORD HIGH ADMIRAL.

A Grand naval dinner was given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, the Lord High Admiral, by the Admirals, Captains, and Commanders of the Royal Navy, in Portsmouth, attended by one hundred and twenty Naval Officers, and with the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, K. G., the Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, Lieutenant Governor Sir James Lyon, K. C. B. and His Worship the Mayor of the Borough, (D. Howard, Esquire,) by eighteen visitors. The health of His Royal Highness the Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom having been proposed and drank with three times three, followed by thunders of applause and three salutes from the Batteries; and the Band having played "Rule Britannia"....

The Lord High Admiral rose to acknowledge the toast.

GENTLEMEN,—As an Englishman, and as a brother Officer, I rise with feelings of pride and of the highest satisfaction, to return my sincere thanks for the manner in which you have been pleased to drink my health. It would be impossible for me to express adequately what I do feel upon this occasion, but I cannot refrain from the attempt; and, in order that you may judge of the feelings I wish to express, you must consider me, as I am, one of your profession—one of your brother officers—one of yourselves—one who became so from choice and decided preference. To meet so many Flag Officers, Captains, and Commanders of His Majesty's Navy, would have afforded me, at any time, the greatest pleasure; but at this moment my feelings are excited to the highest pitch: for during the last few months in particular, my mind, my heart, my soul have been wholly bent upon the Navy; I have placed it in every point of view, and have waded through all its details; and although my attention had been, I may say, incessantly directed towards the interests of the services for the last forty nine years, yet it was not until of late that I have conversed with so many, or indeed, nearly all my brother officers, that I could fully appreciate their worth, both individually and collectively. Gentlemen, when it pleased the Sovereign of this happy nation, distinguished above all others for his maritime superiority, to decide upon my joining the Navy, it was determined that it should not be done as matter of form, but that I should be skilled as a seaman, and that I should not command until I had been well taught how to obey. This, Gentlemen, has been my pride and my glory. A considerable time has passed, in which I have been, in a certain manner, estranged, or, at least, not so intimately connected with the Navy, as I am at this proud and happy moment; but there was no time in which I did not regard its career of glory with heartfelt satisfaction....no moment at which the interests of the service were not dear to my heart....none in which it was not, as it is now, my greatest pride that as a midshipman I had tramped His Majesty's quarter deck. Much may be said, Gentlemen, concerning the advantages of education, and I do not undervalue any school; but since that time I have seen much of men and of things, and judging from events that have been produced by naval men, I will venture to pronounce, there is no education to equal that, take it for all in all, which is afforded by the quarter deck of a British man of war. Our worthy President, Admiral Colpoys, whom I am most happy to meet now, and whom I have known for forty-three years, although I have not seen him so often during that time, as I would have wished, has been pleased to say, that the service would derive

benefit from my appointment to the exalted office of Lord High Admiral. It pleased our gracious Sovereign, to whom I feel undoubted gratitude, solely with a view to the benefit of the naval service, to appoint me to the office which it is my greatest pride and greatest pleasure to fill. If devoting the whole of my time to its welfare and improvement....if giving all my energies, my heart and soul, to the fulfilment of its important duties....and if the professional knowledge I have obtained amongst you can benefit the service....that object will be attained. But as Lord High Admiral, as Admiral of the Fleet, or whatever, in the course of events, I may chance to be, in all that concerns you I shall ever be the same....my greatest pride, my greatest happiness will be in my connection with the Navy; and there is no situation in which I can be placed, that will change the feelings of my heart towards it, none in which you would not find me devoted to your interests, and still a brother officer. Our worthy President has said, has justly said, that in alluding to advantages which the service may derive from the office of Lord High Admiral being filled by one of my family, that he wished not to reflect upon any previous administration of our naval affairs; that all to whom these affairs have been entrusted, had given proofs of their zeal and ability, marked by a course of improvement; and each of them had left some testimony or other of devotion to your interests. I fully agree with him there; and although circumstances, to which I shall not, in fact, need not, allude, caused a sort of separation for past years, yet separation it was not, my eye was ever anxiously fixed on the best interests of the service; and now filling the office of Lord High Admiral, having the arrangement and the details of the Admiralty Office before me. I must in justice say, not only that the Navy has not been neglected by any administration, but that, in my opinion, the whole business of the Admiralty must have been conducted as well or better than that of any other public office under the Crown. What benefit the service to which we belong may derive from the high situation in which our gracious Sovereign has placed me, must proceed, then, from what I know of the Navy, and have experienced in it; in short, from my being your brother officer. But, in any situation, I could not be insensible to the merits and to the importance of the Navy. It is the life, the soul, the very cause of our existence, as an independent nation. What would Britain be without her commerce, her maritime superiority? Gentlemen, look upon the globe, and compare this little Island of Great Britain, a mere speck in the ocean, with the great nations of the world, and then consider in how many parts of that world our flag is, for various purposes, unfurled, by how many myriads of its inhabitants our language is spoken, and then let any one ask, how these great ends, and that vast importance has been obtained....I will answer, by the Navy. Look only to Europe....if the nations thereof possess their own laws, their own government, own institutions, with prosperity and peace, or any good which, as independent nations, they may enjoy, after the gigantic strides taken by usurpation and despotism, to whom are they indebted but to England; and how did England achieve such things? I will answer, by the Navy! I have seen other countries, but all I have seen, all I can learn, serves only to make me more proud of being an Englishman. And what has raised England to be the arbitress of contending empires to her part and her present proud pre-eminence? I will answer, it was her Navy! Over that navy

could not rank so high on the scale of nations, it becomes my duty to watch; with a belief that to damp the spirit of commerce, would be to check that industry of which it is the soul, and of which, again, the protecting arm is the Navy. Gentlemen, I have taken up much of your time: I have grown warm; I could not avoid it. Amongst all the events of my life, in which there has been many peculiar occasions of pleasing excitement and exultation, I can rank none above the present. The satisfaction you have given me in this invitation, the manner in which this toast has been given and drank by so many of my brother officers, press upon my mind, and I feel not only the most lively gratitude, but am led into subjects, upon which, if allowed the inclination of the moment, I should, to use a sea phrase, "forget the stopper, and let the cable run to the clinch." I place the present amongst the best, the happiest moments of my existence. I am now at this table where so many of my brother officers are assembled....who are incapable of expressing what they do not feel....as happy as it is possible for man to be. I shall carry with me through life a pleasing recollection of this hour; that recollection will soften down hours of trouble and of care; and it will remain with me until my latest breath. Gentlemen, I have taken up too much of your time. Excuse my emotions. Your interests will ever meet my warmest regard. I have the pleasure of drinking to the health of all, not only collectively, for I drink to the health of each and every one of you. The next toast proposed was,...."The Emperor of all the Russias," with four times four, which was drank with the highest respect. Captain Chruschoff (of the Russian frigate *Constantine*.) expressed, in the most respectful manner, a very suitable acknowledgement of the honor intended to be conferred on his Emperor. Tune—"The Russian March." The President then rose to propose the health of the Royal Consort of their distinguished guest; "HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF CLARENCE." The toast was drank with four times four, with raptures of applause, and four salutes from the batteries. Tune...."Here's a health to all good lasses." His Royal Highness rose and made an appropriate acknowledgment. On the Health of Earl Spencer being drank, and His Lordship having replied thereto, the Lord High Admiral rose and observed.... Gentlemen, I have already taken up too much of your time, but the manner in which you drank the health of my Lord Spencer, has excited in my bosom feelings which I am strongly prompted to express; and I am imperatively urged to express those feelings as your brother officer....as concerning the high situation I now fill....and as a man. For my Lord Spencer's Administration we all feel indebted; but for my own part, having had recourse to all the records of office, since placed in my present situation, my mind, filled as it always had been with all that concerns the honour, the glory, and the interests of the navy, and with all that is recorded in the glowing pages of naval history, events, and occurrences in our own times, known to you all, and deeply impressed on your memory....still found, from these documents, more cause than I expected, to admire the wise Administration of that Nobleman to whom we now drink, and on whom we have bestowed such rapturous and well merited applause. With how much anxiety did the country look to the Admiralty, during his Administration for the protection of its commerce, which was its main stay....he may say, the source of its existence! And what was the result? That victory after victory added to the

honour of the nation, and advanced her cause:....that successful and extensive commerce abroad stimulated native industry at home, and produced the most beneficial effects. I wish not to disparage any victory gained during the last war, but in whatever way I regard the battle fought by my Lord Duncan, my Lord Saint Vincent, and the Hero of the Nile, during that Administration....whether I consider the superiority of force with which they had to contend, the awful anxiety of the times....their importance to the country, and, in short, all their consequences, or the manner in which the fleets were conducted....I find them entitled to a preference over all preceding, and all subsequent victories, not even excepting the battle of Trafalgar. Although compelled, from all that I know and feel, to give them a preference, I repeat, that I wish not to disparage any; they were all great....all glorious! but having taken up so much of your time, it would not become me now to enter into the details which fix my opinion. The name of my Lord Spencer, with the ideas of our naval glory and noble daring, attach themselves to the recollections of the 11th of October, the 14th of February, and the 1st of August; I shall therefore propose as a toast "The memory of the victories gained off Camperdown, Cape St. Vincent, and the entrance of the Nile." Drink with immense cheering.

THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE.

CHAUDIERE KETTLE, Oct. 3, 1827.

On the 26th ult., His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, accompanied by the Countess and their respective suites, visited this place, (now become the grand focus of attraction for Canadian visitors.) His Lordship, on his arrival, was greeted with those unequivocal marks of joy which must always emanate from every loyal breast on a visitation from the representative of our beloved sovereign, and such as have always been evinced and duly appreciated by the Earl of Dalhousie since he appeared as Governor-in-Chief of the Canadas. On their arrival, these illustrious visitors, after landing on the Lower Canada side of the Ottawa, proceeded *instanter* to view the bridges across the falls of the Chaudiere—necessarily the first object of their attention. The bridges, or rather this chain of bridges, had been nearly completed, with the exception of the enormous span across the *Big Kettle*. Even here, by the exertions of the spirited undertaker, Mr. Drummond, a temporary passage for pedestrians had been thrown across, and His Lordship, accompanied by the Countess and such of the suite as were not intimidated by the dreadful "gulph below," proceeded across to the Upper Canada side of the river, where they had their barge in attendance to receive them. It is deserving of remark, that the day on which His Lordship, accompanied by the Countess and their suites, first crossed the river Ottawa at the fall of the Chaudiere, was exactly the anniversary of the day on which the first stone of the first arch in this chain of bridges had been laid by His Excellency; on which occasion Colonel By expressed a hope that he would, ere that day twelve months, be enabled to let His Lordship cross the river on a bridge. This herculean task, though then hardly believed practicable, has been, by the indefatigable energy and industry of that officer performed. On the day subsequent to his arrival, His Lordship proceeded up the line of the Rideau Canal as far as the *Hog's Back*, to view the unrivalled progress which had been made in that section of this great work within the short lapse of time since its commencement; and we understand he was