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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

OR

THE BATTLE OF SAINT GEORGE'S CAY

1798

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SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

THE BELIZE LITERARY & DEBATING CLUB

(INSTITUTED 12TH JUNE, 1912)

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 - (b) to establish and maintain a library and museum;
 - (c) to advertise the Colony and its resources;
 - (d) to encourage local industries and enterprises;
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 - (f) to promote such other matters of general interest as may seem desirable to the Committee.
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THE BAYMEN
OR
THE BATTLE OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY
SEPTEMBER 10th 1798.

By ROD. A. PITTS

OH Baymen brave and bold of yore,
Who stress and strain of battle bore,
Who fought the fight for Freedom's sake,—
How dared those dastard devils make
That sudden sally o'er the sea
To meet you at St. George's Cay?

Ah, unprepared you were they thought—
No big great guns you had, or aught
Like muskets maiming mighty men,
Or bright breast-piercing bayonets, when
They came, full flushed with pomp and pride
To make you captives; but they lied,—

Your breasts were steeled with manhood true
And Honour nerved your hearts' core too,
The thought of wives and mothers dear
Allowed no room for quailing Fear,—
Their challenge had but one reply—
You'd dare and do—you'd fight, you'd DIE!

Nor had the face of Fortune frowned
On those true manly hearts there found:
The "Merlin" and the Merlin's crew
Had bid Jamaica their adieu,
And westward borne by gentle breeze,
Had just reached haven at Belize.

The Spanish galleons came in sight—
Some thirty sails arrayed for fight:
(Those Spaniards dreamt not that they then
But bearded lions in their den);
Resolved to fight with heart and hand,
Each Bayman dauntless took his stand;

And "By the Gods," those Baymen swore,
"There shall be nought like plundered store
To grace a Spanish victory,
If ever a catastrophe
Our fortune in this conflict be,
And Spain should take St. George's Cay."

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

The vow was made, and everywhere
A little fire was kindled there,
While settlers watched, with faces grim
Each house and hut, so neat and trim,
Blaze like some sacred funeral pyre,
Then join in one consuming fire.

The Spaniards they were in a maze
To find the way was all ablaze:
From North to South, from East to West,
Each house and hut that way possessed,
To gaining Consternation's gaze,
Did feed that conflagration's blaze.

And could they chance a moment's glance
To read each Bayman's countenance,
They had not found the marks of Fear,
But sturdy manhood, written there:
Prepared to dare, to do, to die,
The might of Spain they would defy.

Their fate, the Baymen now could see,
Would be determined on the sea,
But ah, the Spanish ships of war
Were bigger and were stronger far
In everything to make or mar
The schemes and wiles of naval war.

Beside the Merlin and her crew,
Some droghers, flats, and pitpans too,
Though ten to one the Spaniards came
To try them in a deadly game,
Were well prepared at odds to meet
That Spanish great invading fleet.

To leeward of Montego Shoal,
In safety from the breakers' roll,
The Baymen's fleet at anchorage lay
With hearts all eager for the fray,
Though trusting God to help to mar
The projects of those hounds of war.

Then did the Spanish cannons roar
And send their shells in showers o'er—
Well did the Spanish captain know
The Baymen's cannons could not throw
Projectiles half the distance o'er,
The which did grieve the Baymen sore.

"Reserve your fire," the order ran,
And 'twas obeyed by every man;
As though their lives from death were charmed,

Those Baymen bided, unalarmed,
That dreadful order seemingly
Against their lives so grudgingly.

Their guns outranged, each Bayman stood,
Just hoping that the Spaniards would
But venture in their greater might
To grapple in a closer fight:
The wary captain kept afar
And hoped to win without a scar;

But Fortune's favour does not serve
The man too pluckless to deserve;
Although his cannons blazed forth hell,
Not one shot on its target fell:
Some went to windward, some to lee,
All found their mark in briny sea.

And soon the great suspense was o'er,
When Baymen did await no more
The orders that they longed for so:
The desperate (now unwary) foe
Led on his mighty hulls to close
And grapple with his waiting foes;

But 'twas a luckless hour in which
The Spanish captain tried to reach
A single yard his foe ships near,
For long before he was aware,
Yes, long before he neared his goal,
Four ships were on Montego Shoal.

Ah! what a sad and sorry plight
For those who vaunted power and might—
Imposing, awful monsters once,
All armed against each hapless chance—
But now, four hulls with crowded decks
That soon must be four mighty wrecks.

Now did the Baymen's cannons roar
And send their shells in showers o'er,
And such an awful havoc wrought
No foeman of such carnage thought:
The odds were turned of deadly game,
The Spaniards thwarted in their aim:

Among each Spanish galleon's crew
Such chaos and disorder grew,
No sailor and no captain knew
What step to take, what next to do,
And now "All lost, all lost" some cried,
While some from terror must have died.

In one respect they were the same,
For when the end of battle came
It was the same old bit of rag—
The same victorious British flag,
That triumphed over land and sea
To bid the brave yet to be free.

Sons of Honduras, oh sing you aloud
Of your forebears brave how much you are proud:
Those Baymen who fought and discharged their great trust,
Whose bodies now mingle with Earth's fertile dust,
All died that this land, which by blood they acquired,
Might give you that freedom their brave hearts inspired.

Sons of Honduras, the sprites of your sires
Will welcome the homage their story inspires:
The white man, the black man, the master, the slave—
All, all, must be numbered and listed as brave;
Whenever you lift up your glad hearts to sing,
Oh, mingle "The Baymen" with "God Save the King".

1st September, 1923.

THE BATTLE OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY

A Little-Known but Gallant Episode in Empire History.

By H. E. MAJOR SIR JOHN BURDON, K. B. E., C. M. G., M. A.

(Governor of British Honduras)

ON September 10th, 1798, British Honduras was the scene of a gallant naval engagement, which is, so I have been informed, unknown to naval historians. I therefore desire to publish such contemporary documents as I have copies of, recounting the action in the hope that an episode most creditable to His Majesty's Navy and also to the forefathers of the inhabitants of this Colony may become generally known.

The documents, with the exception of the last, are taken from "The Defence of the Settlers of Honduras against the Unjust and Unfounded Representations of Colonel George Arthur, late Superintendent of the Settlement"; they were published in Jamaica, 1824, and presented to every member of the Imperial Parliament.

The first recorded settlement in British Honduras was made by a party of shipwrecked British subjects in 1638. Spain first granted to the settlers the right to cut mahogany and logwood, and in 1670, by the Treaty of Godolphin, was held to have conceded to England the sovereignty over the "Settlement," the official title until the designation "Colony" was granted in 1862. This concession was, however, disputed in subsequent treaties, and Spain made at least four attempts during the eighteenth century to uphold by force her claims to sovereignty. The last of these attempts resulted, on September 10th, 1798, in the Battle of St. George's Cay, which finally shattered Spanish claims to sovereignty. This is a very gallant action worthy of a place in "Deeds that Won the Empire."

In January, 1797, owing to representations to the home Government as to the aggressive attitude of Spain in these waters, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Barrow was appointed Superintendent (the then title of the Chief Officer of the Settlement) with civil and military powers. The inability of the Mother Country to send military assistance caused the settlers to consider very seriously whether they should attempt to resist the hostile force or evacuate the Settlement.

On 1st June, 1797, the Prince Meeting, the recognized "Parliament" of the Settlement, most gallantly decided, by a majority of 14 votes, in favour of resistance. Such modest preparations for defence as were possible were then undertaken.

On September 3rd, 1798, the Spanish Flotilla of 81 vessels, carrying 2,000 troops and 500 seamen, commanded by Field-Marshal Arthur O'Neil, Captain-General of Yucatan, appeared off Montego Bay.

The defending flotilla consisted of:—

His Majesty's sloop "Merlin," Captain Moss, eight 18-pounders and 50 men;

Two local sloops, one 18-pounder and 25 men each;

One local sloop, one 9-pounder and 25 men;

Two local schooners, six 4-pounders and 25 men each;

Seven gun-flats (strengthened log-wood rafts), one 2-pounder and 25 men each.

Total force, 350 men and 80 guns.

There was also a reserve force of 200 men, including detachments of the 63rd Foot, 6th West India Regiment and Royal Artillery, with one howitzer and two 6-pounders, ready to embark for any threatened point.

On September 3rd, 4th and 5th, the enemy tried to force a passage through the shoals into Belize, but was repulsed by the sloops and gun-flats. Captain Moss, seeing that their next objective would be St. George's Cay, took the "Merlin" there on the 6th, arriving just as 12 of the heaviest enemy vessels were attempting its capture. He reports "they hauled their wind and returned to Long Key, on my hauled mine and towards them." The next three days were spent in "working and anchoring among the shoals."

14 of the largest Spanish ships bore down on September 7th. Nine of them, mounting from 12 to 24 guns, and launches filled with soldiers, attacked the "Merlin." Five smaller vessels lay to windward, ready to support the main force, and the remainder of their force was in the event. (Captain Moss's Despatch.)

Barrow's despatch must be read to see how any came down in the

instance, in a line

After two o'clock

while they were

his own men

veterans, 1st

Spaniards

cable

launch

Colonel Barrow received news of the impending attack on the afternoon of the tenth, and immediately hurried out to the Cay with the 200 troops of the reserve Force. He was, however, too late to have any share in the action.

A private letter dated September 25th, 1798, describing the action, contains the following passage:—

"You will be astonished to hear that our negro men (who manned the flats) gave a hearty cheer, and in the midst of a firing of grape kept up upon them from the Spanish vessels that covered those which were aground, those negroes in an undaunted manner rowed their boats, and used every exertion to board the enemy; but Captain Moss, who directed everything, called back the flats (from motives of prudence) first by signal, and then by sending a boat."

Lord Balcarres, Governor of Jamaica, in his report, speaks of "the wonderful exertions of the Settlers and their negro slaves," and writes:—

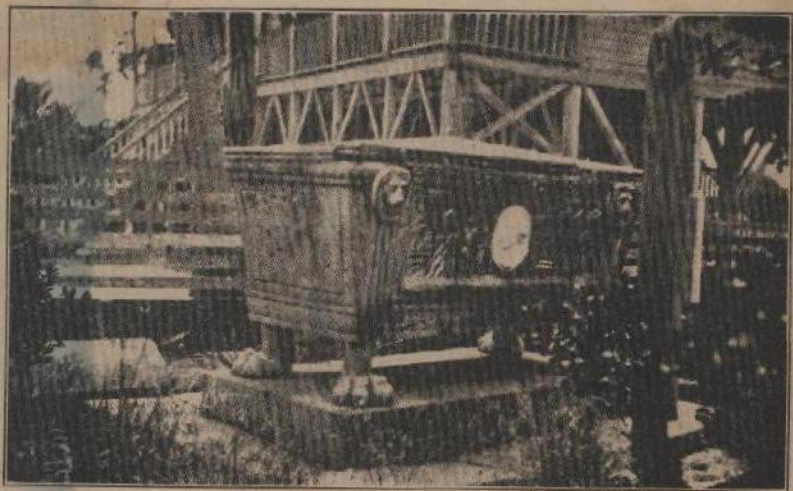
"The conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, and of the Settlers in putting the Port of Honduras Bay into a respectable state of defence, as well as the gallant manner in which it was maintained, gives me entire satisfaction, and it is with pleasure that I report their services to Your Grace."

The Duke of Portland transmitted to the Earl of Balcarres the report of the able and judicious conduct of Colonel Barrow, of the troops and seamen, and the spirited management, and directed him to signify them through me with the just sense His Majesty entertains of their glorious conduct."

... fought until the night of the 15th, when

... birthday of the Colony, the
... foreign domination and
... to say that it "came
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AN OLD VETERAN'S TOMB—ST. GEORGE'S CAY

The following lines, written, set to music and sung, all by native born descendants of the brave old Baymen, show the spirit in which the Colony views this most honourable episode in its history.

Sons of Honduras, the spirits of your sires
Will welcome the homage their story inspires:
Those Baymen who fought and discharged their great trust,
Whose bodies now mingle with Earth's fertile dust,
All died that this land which by blood they acquired
Might give you that freedom their brave hearts inspired.

Sons of Honduras, oh sing you aloud
Of your forebears so brave how much you're proud!
The white man, the black man, the master, the slave—
All, all must be numbered and listed as brave.
Whenever you lift up your glad hearts to sing,
Oh mingle "The Baymen" with "God Save the King."

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DESCENT MADE BY THE SPANIARDS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF HONDURAS IN THE YEAR 1798

MENTION having been made in the preceding pages of the good conduct of the negroes of Honduras in resisting the attack of the Spaniards on that Settlement in the year 1798, the Printer of this "Defence" cannot forego the pleasure he feels in extracting from the columns of the *Royal Gazette* of that year the account, which was then published, of this gallant affair; and, although it is without the knowledge and sanction of the Magistrates, he trusts that it will, notwithstanding, meet with their approbation. He is the more induced to do this, from the consideration that this Book will fall into the hands of many who are unacquainted with the circumstances; and he conceives that so honourable a testimony, not only to the gallantry of the small band of white settlers, but also to the devotion and zeal of the negroes in the defence of their masters' lives and properties, ought to be rescued from oblivion, and brought before the view of the Members of the Imperial Parliament, Lords and Commons, the People of Great Britain, and their Fellow Colonists in these climes.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, *November 3rd, 1798.*

Captain Edwards, of the sloop "Happy Return," which arrived at Black River on Saturday last from Honduras, with Despatches for Lord Balcarres, came to this town on Thursday, and brought with him letters, containing accounts of an unsuccessful attack made by

the Spaniards on our possession there, which our readers will find amply detailed below.

Captain Edwards arrived at Honduras from this island on the 12th ult., two days after the defeat of the enemy, who were still, however, upon the coast; but upon their perceiving an augmentation of the British force, consisting of the "Happy Return," a ship, and two other vessels, together with the North seasons having set in, which rendered it less practicable for them to gain their own ports in case of defeat, should they risk another attack, they made off, and were dogged by some of our craft to their posts on the coast. They afterwards visited Key-Chappel, where the Spaniards had rendezvoused, and found it covered with graves; but whether they contained the bodies of those who fell in the attack, or of those who had fallen victims to the flux (which, some prisoners that were taken said, was raging amongst them), could not be ascertained. Although fears are expressed by the Inhabitants of another attack, we are assured by Captain Edwards that at this time of the year nothing is to be feared from them. From the time of collecting the Spanish troops, and the putting in execution their intentions, desertion had been general, and the people had openly expressed their aversion to the expulsion of the British from Honduras.

Captain Edwards also mentions the gallant conduct of Captain Osmar, an American, who had lost his vessel on a reef. When the attack was threatened, he solicited and obtained the command of a flat, and in a creek he sustained at one time an action against five of the Spanish gun-boats, and at another time against seven, in both of which he succeeded in beating them off.

Extract of a letter from Honduras, dated the 20th September, 1798.

"Soon after the date of my last, it was discovered that the enemy meant to direct their first attack upon the "Merlin," and in aid of her a flotilla of gun-boats, some of which mounted nine and others eighteen pounders, were hastily prepared, with which Captain Moss took his station at St. George's Key, where the navigation suited his operations better than at Belize. On the 3rd inst. the enemy attempted to force a passage over the shoals, but was repulsed; on the 5th a similar attempt was made, with equal disappointment, and on the 10th they came down with 18 with the heaviest vessels, to attack our little fleet, by another and deeper channel. The Spaniards approached with spirit, and their appearance was confident. As soon as Captain Moss thought them within reach of our gun-boats, he made the signal to fire on the enemy, which was done with great effect. The contest was short, for the Don's, unable to stand our fire, cut their cables and retreated in the utmost confusion, and four of them would have fallen into our hands had not the approach of night saved them. On the 15th, seven of the Campeachy vessels stole off, and were then supposed to have returned to that port, and the remainder, being 23, were seen standing to the Northward, supposed to be bound to Raccalar. This retreat gave us all much pleasure,

and we expected a small relaxation from military duty, but a scout-boat last night brought information that the enemy are again collecting at Basil Jones's Channel, the same place where they were at the date of my last. We do not know the exact loss of the enemy, but it must have been considerable; we did not lose a man. Captain Moss gives credit to the spirit and conduct of our little fleet, which was manned by very few white men, of little or no experience, the rest all negroes. I observe the exact state of the enemy's fleet, as collected at Cape Catouche, detailed in your *Gazettes*, and it appears strange, if that account be credited, that no attention was paid to us, nor even a vessel sent to inquire whether we had fallen to so superior a force or not. The two frigates mentioned in that account approached no nearer than Cozumel from whence, we learn, they returned to La Vera Cruz. I cannot conclude without observing, that if we do not soon receive further force and supplies of all sorts from Jamaica, we must inevitably fall."

Extract of another letter, dated 25th September, 1798

"We have been for two months under arms and martial law, with a powerful force of the enemy in our neighbourhood; several of their armed vessels were seen from our houses many days cannonading our armed craft—this armament first were heard of on our coast, a little to the Northward, on the 18th of July. Their heaviest gun-boats and armed vessels came from Campeachy with a considerable number of troops. When the Yucatan forces under Captain-General O'Neil were ready, a junction was formed, and the whole approached near the Key Channel; we have reason to suppose they intended to possess themselves of St. George's Key, and throw up works there to harass us at leisure. Our first step, therefore, was to destroy all the houses on it; we then armed five of our country sloops and schooners with nine and eighteen-pounders in the prows and smaller guns in the waist, with seven of our logwood flats, secured with additional timbers, manned with 16 or 20 men each, and mounting a nine-pounder; these were fitted and equipped as well as the shortness of the time would admit, and that small force, with the "Merlin" sloop of war, took their station in the channel at St. George's Key, in order to dispute that passage with the enemy. We knew it was the only way they could come to attack the town, without going round by sea to English Key, and in attempting that they would be seen by our little fleet, who could have come in before them by the inside channel, except the "Merlin," that must have followed them, and had an advantage at sea. In this station our craft remained in sight of, and very near to, the enemy's force for several days; some of our vessels occasionally approached and cannonaded the enemy without receiving injury, or, I believe, doing much to them, until Monday the 10th of this month, when several of their armed vessels, under full sail, came forward very boldly to attack our little fleet; nine of their largest gun-vessels (mounting each two 24-pounders, besides smaller cannon) commenced the engagement, and continued a very brisk and heavy



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY

been attacked by a flotilla, consisting of 31 vessels, having on board 2,000 land-troops and 500 seamen: Arthur O'Neill, Governor-General of Yucatan, and a Field-Marshal in the service of Spain, commanded in person. I have great satisfaction in transmitting the letter of the Lieutenant-Colonel by which Your Grace will be informed that this armament has been repulsed, and the expedition entirely frustrated.

The Lieutenant-Colonel speaks in the handsomest manner of the conduct of Captain Moss of His Majesty's ship "Merlin," and of the wonderful exertions of the settlers and their negro slaves, who manned the boats.

The conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, and of the settlers, in putting the port of Honduras Bay into a respectable state of defence, as well as the gallant manner in which it was maintained, gives me entire satisfaction, and it is with pleasure that I report their services to Your Grace.

I have the honour to be, &c., BALCARRES.

To His Grace the Duke of Portland.

HONDURAS, September 23rd, 1798.

MY LORD,

After the date of my last despatch of the 11th, 14th, and 21st August, by the express boat "Swift," I continued to strengthen our flotilla, which now consists of—

- No. 1. "Towser," one gun, 18-pounder.
 - No. 2. "Tickler," one gun, 18-pounder.
 - No. 3. "Mermaid," one gun, 9-pounder.
 - No. 4. "Swinger," four guns, 6-pounders, and two guns, 4-pounders.
 - No. 5. "Teazer," six guns, 4-pounders.
- Besides eight flat gun-boats, carrying each a 9-pounder in the prow.

Nos. 1 and 2 are commanded by Mr. Gelston and Mr. Hosner, Masters of merchant-vessels, who, with some of their crews, volunteered the business in a very handsome manner. To those gentlemen I am much indebted for their able and active services. The Masters and crews of all the other vessels consist entirely of volunteers from the Colonial troops, and together amount to 354 men now on float. The enemy was so well watched by scout-boats and canoes, that not a single movement could be made by him without knowledge; and, finding that he aimed at the possession of St. George's Key, the armed vessels Nos. 1, 4 and 5 were sent to that place to guard the narrow channels leading to that commodious harbour.

On the 3rd September the enemy endeavoured to force a passage over Montego-Key Shoal with five vessels, two of which carried heavy metal, but was repulsed; He renewed his attempt on the following day; but our little squadron, being now reinforced by six gun-boats, beat them off with great ease, and the five vessels returned to

the main body of the fleet, then at anchor about two leagues to the Northward. This movement gave our people an opportunity of drawing and destroying all the beacons and stakes which the enemy had placed in the narrow and crooked channel, and without the use of which nothing but vessels of a very easy draught of water can pass. On the 5th, the same vessels, accompanied by two others, and a number of launches, endeavoured to get over the shoal by another passage, but were repulsed, apparently with loss. On this, as well as on the two preceding days, the Spaniards expended an immense quantity of ammunition to no manner of purpose; while our people fired comparatively little, but with a steadiness which surpassed my most sanguine hopes.

Captain Moss, in His Majesty's ship "Merlin," left his anchorage at Belize on the evening of the 5th, and arrived at St. George's Key about noon on the 6th of September. The Spaniards having found a passage through the leeward channels impracticable, had got under weigh on the morning of that day with their whole fleet, seemingly with a view of forcing a passage through the windward (a sand-bore passage, to the Eastward of Long Key; but on seeing the "Merlin" beating into the harbour of St. George's Key, and that our fleet was re-inforced by the armed vessels Nos: 2 and 3, and a large gun-boat, they returned to their former anchorage between Long Key and Key-Chappel.

I was now of opinion that the enemy would alter his mode of attack, and endeavour to make a landing on the main land to the Northward of our posts, at the Haul-over. Under this idea I began to prepare small vessels and gun-boats, in which I meant to embark with 200 men, including detachment of His Majesty's 63rd and 6th West-India regiments, and of the Royal Artillery, with one howitzer and two field-pieces, 6-pounders. With this force it was my intention to block up the channel between the Main and the Western point of Hicks's Keys, and to obstruct as much as possible a landing in that quarter; or, if foiled in both of these objects, to throw the whole strength into the works at the Haul-over, and to defend that post to the last extremity; while a body of experienced bushmen, all good shots, and under orders for that purpose, should hang on the flanks and rear of the enemy.

On the morning of Monday, the 10th of September, 14 of the largest vessels of the Spanish fleet weighed anchor, and at nine o'clock brought to about a mile and half distant from our fleet. Captain Moss was then of opinion that they meant to delay the attack till the following day; but nine of them got under weigh about noon. These carried each two 24-pounders in the bow, and two 18-pounders in the stern; one schooner carried 22, and all the rest from eight to 14 guns in their waist; and every one of them, besides being crowded with men, towed a large launch, full of soldiers. The other five vessels, with several large launches, all full of men, remained at this last anchorage at the distance of a mile and a half.

Our fleet was drawn up with His Majesty's ship "Merlin" in the centre, and directly abreast of the channel. The sloops with heavy guns, and the gun-boats in some advance to the Northward, were on her Eastern and Western flanks.

The enemy came down in a very handsome manner, and with a good countenance, in a line abreast, using both sails and oars. About half after two o'clock Captain Moss made the signal to engage, which was obeyed with a cool and determined firmness, that, to use his own expression to me on the occasion, would have done credit to veterans. The action lasted about two hours and a half, when the Spaniards began to fall into confusion, and soon afterwards cut their cables and sailed and rowed off, assisted by a great number of launches, which took them in tow.

Captain Moss, on seeing them retreat, made the signal for our vessels to chase; but night coming on, and rendering a pursuit too dangerous in a narrow channel, and difficult navigation, they were soon after recalled.

At half after three in the afternoon, I received a letter from Captain Moss, stating that the enemy was preparing to attack him, and requiring all the assistance which I could give. I immediately ordered as many men to embark and proceed to his assistance, as small craft to carry them could be procured. The alacrity shown on this occasion was great indeed; but, as a requisition of this nature was by no means expected, the necessary arrangements had not been made for so speedily embarking the troops, and of consequence some irregularity ensued; for the cannonade being distinctly heard, and a certainty of an engagement having taken place, it became impossible to restrain the eagerness of the Colonial troops, who, possessing canoes, dories, and pit-pans, without thought or retrospect of those left behind, hastened with impetuosity to join their companions, and share their danger. Hence arose difficulty and disappointment to the regular troops, who being under arms, and anxious to proceed with all expedition, suffered delay from want of the necessary boats and craft to embark in.

As soon as I saw 17 craft of different descriptions, having on board 200 men, set off with orders to rally round the "Merlin," I immediately joined them in hopes of assisting Captain Moss and harassing the enemy; but although we were only two hours in getting on board the "Merlin," a distance of three leagues and a half in the wind's eye, we were too late to have any share in the action. But I am of opinion, that the sight of so many craft, full of men, coming up with velocity, hastened the return of the enemy, and that their appearance on the following day, as well as the junction of two armed ships, the "Juba" and "Columbia," which I had ordered round to St. George's Key on the 9th, induced the fleet to prepare for returning to their respective posts. The Spaniards remained under Key-Chappel until the 15th, on the morning of which they made various movements, and in the course of the day some of them anchored under Key-Caulker. On the morning of the 16th, it was

discovered that they had stolen off; eight of their largest vessels got out to sea, and stood to the Northward; the remainder, being 23 in number, shaped their course for Baccalar.

We have every reason to believe that the enemy suffered much in the action of the 19th, as well in killed and wounded as in the hulls and rigging of the vessels engaged; and I am happy to inform Your Lordship that we had not a single man hurt, and that no injury was done to any of our vessels, deserving of notice.

It would be unjust, My Lord, to mention the names of any Officers, either of the Military or Militia, on account of any particular service performed by them; for the conduct of all being such as to merit my best thanks, no particular distinction can be made.

It is also unnecessary for me to say anything respecting Captain Moss. His penetration in discovering, and activity in defeating, the views of the enemy, his coolness and steady conduct in action, point him out as an Officer of very great merit. He first suggested to me the very great use which might be made of gun-boats against the enemy, and gave me much assistance by the artificers belonging to his ship in fitting them out. I am happy to say that the most cordial co-operation has always existed between us. On the 13th inst. I sent out two scout-canoes, well manned, with order to pass the Spanish fleet in the night, and proceeding to the Northward, to board the first small vessel they could fall in with. On the 16th, they captured a small packet-boat with five hands, when, taking out the prisoners, letters &c., and destroying the boat, they returned here on the 17th. At day-light of that day the canoes were entangled with the retreating Spanish fleet near Savanna Quay, and escaped with difficulty.

The expedition was commanded by Arthur O'Neill, a Field-Marshal in the armies of Spain, and Captain-General of the Province of Yucatan. The Campéachy fleet was commanded by Captain Boco Negra. Two thousand soldiers were embarked, and distributed in proportion to the dimensions of the vessels, on board of the fleet, which consisted of:—

The vessels which made the attack, in number	9
Reserve of equal force	5
A large sloop of equal force, and six schooners, not so large, but armed in the same manner as those which came down to the attack, and, drawing too much water, remained with the transports and victuallers	7
Transports, victuallers, &c., all carrying bow and side guns of different calibres	11
Total	32



BATHING KRAALS - ST. GEORGE'S CAY

And navigated by 500 seamen, principally from the Havana and Campeachy.

I am, &c., THO. BARROW.
Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant,

To the Earl of Balcarres.

(True Copy.) BALCARRES.
ADMIRALTY OFFICE, *January 22nd, 1799.*

Extract of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, Knt. Commander of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels at Jamaica, to Evan Nepean, Esq., dated on board His Majesty's ship "Abergavenny," in Port Royal Harbour, the 6th November, 1798.

SIR,

You will be pleased to acquaint The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I have received dispatches from Capt. Moss, of His Majesty's sloop "Merlin," dated Honduras, 27th September, a copy of which, describing the defeat of the Spanish flotilla, is herewith enclosed.

"MERLIN" ST. GEORGE'S KEY,
September 27th, 1798.

SIR,

My letters by the "Swift" schooner, which sailed from Honduras express on the 21st of last August, have informed you of the enemy's force intended for the reduction of this Settlement, and their situation at that time; since which our look-out canoes have watched them so closely, that all their movements were made known to me as they happened. On the 4th of this month they were visible from our mastheads at Belize, and the look-outs reported to me 31 sails of all descriptions; but their exact force by no means certain. The next day six of their heaviest vessels attempted to force their passage over Montego-Key Shoal, by putting their provision and stores into other vessels. Had they effected this, it would have secured them all a passage to Belize over shoal water, where I could by no means act. I ordered three of our armed vessels to annoy them in their endeavours, which succeeded so far as to occasion their removal at dark, and a small channel they had marked by driving down stakes was also taken up by our canoes. I now clearly saw that their next effort would be to get possession of St. George's Key, from which place (only nine miles from Belize) they might go down through the different channels leading to it, and continue to harass the Inhabitants and destroy the town at their leisure, and drive me from my anchorage there. This determined me to gain the Key before them, if possible. I therefore left Belize on the evening of the 5th, and secured this place, at the instant 12 of their heaviest vessels were attempting the same; they hauled their wind and returned to Long Key, on my hauling my wind towards them. They continued working and anchoring among the shoals until the 11th, at the distance of three or four miles; when having made their arrange-

ments, at one p.m. nine sails of sloops and schooners, carrying 12 to 20 guns, including two 24-pounders and two 18-pounders each had in prow and stern, with a large launch astern of each, full of men, bore down through the channel leading to us in a very handsome cool manner; five smaller vessels lay to windward, out of gunshot, full of troops, and the remainder of their squadron at Long Key Spit to wait the event, each of which carried small prow guns, with swivels fore and aft. At half-past one p.m., seeing their intention to board the two sloops, and that they meant to come no nearer, but had anchored, I made the signal to engage, which began and continued near two hours; they then cut their cables, and rowed and towed off, by signal, in great confusion over the shoals. I had placed the "Merlin" as near the edge of them as possible, and nothing that I had was equal to follow them, unsupported by the "Merlin." At dark they regained their other vessels, and continued in sight till the 15th at night, when they moved off with a light Southerly wind. Some are gone to Baccalar, and some prisoners taken report others to Campeachy. I am happy to add that the service was performed without a man killed on our side. The enemy I think must have suffered much from the great number of men on board, and the precipitate manner they made their retreat. This armament was commanded by Gen. O'Neill, Governor of the Province, troops and sailors included, about 2,500 men; and so certain were the Spaniards of success, that the letters found in a canoe taken were actually directed to Belize and St. George's Key.

The behaviour of the Officers and crew of His Majesty's ship gave me great pleasure, and, had we had deep water to follow them in, I think many of them would have fallen into our hands. The spirit of the negro slaves that manned our small crafts was wonderful, and the good management of the different Commanders does them great credit.

Our force, besides the "Merlin", was as follows:—

- Two sloops, with one 18-pounder and 25 men each.
- One sloop, with one short 9-pounder and 25 men each.
- Two schooners, with six 4-pounders and 25 men each.
- Seven gun-flats, with one 9-pounder and 16 men each.

I have the honour to be, Sir, &c.,

JOHN R. MOSS.

EXTRACT FROM

"AN ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH SETTLEMENT OF HONDURAS"

By CAPTAIN HENDERSON, of His Majesty's 5th West India Regiment.

Printed by and for C. & R. Baldwin, New Bridge Street, London, 1809.

"THE sense His Majesty entertained of the united exertion of the navy and army, and the settlers, he was pleased to express by directing the following communication to be made to them through Lieutenant-General the Earl of Balcarres."

Extract of a letter from his Grace the Duke of Portland to Lieutenant-General the Earl of Balcarres, dated, Whitehall, 8th February, 1799.

"MY LORD,

"I had great pleasure in laying before His Majesty the account you transmitted of the defeat of the Spanish Flotilla, in its attack upon our Settlement of Honduras.

"The able and judicious conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, and Captain Moss of the 'Merlin' sloop, the bravery of the troops and seamen under their respective commands, and the spirited exertions of the Settlement in general, on this occasion, have been such as to receive His Majesty's approbation, which your Lordship is hereby directed to signify through Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, together with the just sense His Majesty entertains of their gallant and meritorious conduct."

(A true extract.)

(Signed) BALCARRES.

CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY.

The following reprint of the Editorial of the Colonial Guardian, a newspaper now defunct, which was edited by the late Dr. Fred Gahne, a talented physician and journalist, is worthy of being placed on permanent record in the annals of British Honduras.

COLONIAL GUARDIAN

Belize, Saturday, April 2nd, 1898

SALUS POPULI SUPREMA EST LEX.

THE subject of the celebration of the Centenary of the Battle of St. George's Cay is now occupying the public mind. That such an event ought to be celebrated by the inhabitants of British Honduras with some pomp and circumstance goes without saying; for

behind their masters in coolness and undaunted courage, although they expected to win no victory. That such a victory was won against overwhelming odds is matter for thankfulness to the Almighty. That victory was to British Honduras what the defeat of the Spanish Armada was to England. It freed both alike from the chance of coming under the grinding tyranny and oppression of Spain. That we have not suffered during the last hundred years what all Latin America for long suffered and what poor Cuba is now suffering is due to the heroism of the victors of the battle of St. George's Cay on the 10th September, 1798, whose glorious deed of "derring-do" may the inhabitants of British Honduras ever keep in grateful remembrance.

SHOULD THE SPANISH SPEAKING INHABITANTS OF BRITISH HONDURAS CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY.

A large proportion of the population of British Honduras consists of Spanish speaking peoples, descendants from Yucatecans, Mexicans, Maya Indians and sprinkling of Spaniards. It has been contended by certain people that it is not reasonable to expect these Spanish speaking people to join in commemorating the anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Bay which was fought in 1798; for they would then be celebrating the defeat of their forebears. This is an extraordinarily narrow minded reason and contrasts most unfavourably in certain respects.

In the first place there is not only no evidence that the Spaniards who were defeated off St. George's Cay on the 9th and 10th September, 1798, were the Ancestors of our present Spanish speaking population, but there is every reason to believe they were not.

The Expedition, the defeat of which took place as already mentioned, did not come from Yucatan but Havana. It would be absurd, therefore, to suppose that our present Spanish speaking population are descendants from settlers in Cuba.

If the idea emanated because some of the people have a small percentage of Spanish blood in their veins, and, therefore, ought not to take part in the celebration, it is a preposterous one.

The love of Religious and Civil Liberty should be above the prejudices of race; and the really true lover of freedom, whether he be of English, Spanish, or of any other extraction, rejoices when an oppression of a tyranny has been overthrown.

The teachers of children should remember and remind their pupils that the cause for which the Baymen fought in 1798 was the same cause for which the noble Priest of Dolores, the highminded

and patriotic Hidalgo, suffered death, for which brave patriots as Morelos, Matamoros and Guerrero struggled—such a struggle which resulted in the independence of Mexico.

But there is another side of the question—the question of loyalty to the Flag that flies over us, securing to every inhabitant of British Honduras the most ample, civil and religious liberty. Needless to say it was secured on the 10th of September, 1798, by the gallant Baymen and their slaves. They established the Flag which today secures for all who take refuge under its folds, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit to happiness, in the most ample sense of those words.

An Irish orator—generously forgetting the savage cruelty with which the Irish Rebellion of 1798 was stamped out—has given to the world the following glowing description of British liberty:—

"I speak in the spirit of the British law, which makes liberty commensurate with, and inseparable from, British soil—which proclaims, even to the stranger and sojourner, that the moment he sets his foot upon British earth, that the ground on which he treads is holy, and consecrated by the genius of Universal Emancipation! No matter in what language his doom may have been pronounced; no matter what complexion incompatible with freedom, an Indian or African sun may have burnt upon him; no matter in what disastrous battle his liberty may have been cloven down; no matter with what solemnities he may have been devoted upon the altar of slavery; the first moment he touches the sacred soil of Britain, the altar and the god sink together in the dust; his soul walks abroad in her own majesty; his body swells beyond the measure of the chains that burst from around him; and he stands—redeemed, regenerated, and disenthralled, by the irresistible genius of Universal Emancipation."

That glowing tribute to English Law and British freedom was less true in Curran's day than it is at the present time. To-day, his description is absolutely true, and the Spanish speaking people living in British Honduras, as partakers of this great and glorious inheritance ought to feel ever grateful to the BAYMEN and their SLAVES for securing it forever for them and their descendants.

When it comes to the celebration of the COLONY'S BIRTHDAY the duty of every inhabitant within its borders is plain. And it can be hoped that this contribution will not be construed to cast any reflection on the tried loyalty and the well known sense of gratitude of the Spanish speaking people living under the ægis of the UNION JACK in British Honduras; but as a rebuttal to the sophistry and grossly misleading statements by an irresponsible, thoughtless and mischievous few.

A UNIQUE INCIDENT IN HISTORY.

THE Battle of Saint George's Cay which was fought on the 10th September, 1798, is interesting not only to the people of British Honduras but to the student of history every where; for it is unique in human history and illustrates a unique condition of things. It is the first time as it will probably be the last, in the history of the world in which Slaves and Masters fought side by side for a common country and to keep away a common enemy. In other countries where slavery had existed, on the contrary, Masters had to keep watch and ward over their Slaves to prevent slave insurrections—the fruit of man's inhumanity to man—from sweeping them from the face of the earth. This state of things was not due to the Masters in British Honduras being any better than British Masters were anywhere else, or due to any religious scruples; but it was the direct result of the need of the Masters for the protecting arms of their Slaves, without those hearty co-operation British Honduras, would, to-day, have been groaning under blighting Spanish despotism. To have attempted to illuse slaves armed and disciplined and accustomed to fight would have been to put the lives of the Masters in greater peril than from even Spanish incursions. No doubt the dependence on their Slaves created in the minds of their Masters regard for their defenders; and the kindliness to which this gave rise reacted on the slaves and produced reciprocal kindliness and increased loyalty; so that ultimately their relations more resembled the relations of Highland Chiefs to their humble Clansmen than to West Indian or American Slavery. When emancipation came, therefore, it was to some extent nominal freedom—The lesson which should be learned from the VICTORY by the inhabitants of British Honduras is that they should stand

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

regardless of race, creed, colour or class—to be just to each other and they will have no cause to fear anything.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. HENRY CHARLES USHER, J.P.,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, NORTH FRONT ST.,
BELIZE, ON WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL, 1898, TO CONSIDER
THE CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S CAY, 1798.

Gentlemen:—

WE have assembled here this evening to consider whether the Centenary, falling on this year, of a great event in the history of this Colony, should or should not be celebrated and commemorated and, if it be the desire that it should, then to take such steps as may be advisable to bring about the same in a proper and suitable manner.

The early history of the establishment of the Settlement in this part of the world, now known as the Colony of British Honduras, is replete with scenes and occurrences of thrilling and romantic interest which have only to be known to create feelings of surprise and admiration of the actors and deeds to which they relate and one of the most remarkable and exciting events in the history of this little town, but most interesting of England's Colonial possessions, is the battle of St. George's Cay.

On the 10th September, 1798, a few British wood cutters, better known as the old Baymen, with their slaves, and with the help of the "Merlin" a small British sloop of war, defeated at St. George's Cay and drove off, a powerful armament of Spanish invaders, who had arrived with a fleet of 32 vessels, all heavily armed, well equipped and fully manned by 500 well trained Spanish sailors, principally from Havana and Campeachy, and aided by a strong body of disciplined Spanish soldiers, numbering 2,000. The expedition was under the orders of Arthur O'Neil, then well known and greatly distinguished as a Field-marshal in the service of Spain and Captain General of the Province of Yucatan, and the Fleet was commanded by one Captain Boca-Negra.

That Spanish armada came in all confidence of a certain and easy victory over a few undisciplined, and, as they imagined, unarmed and totally unprepared British wood-cutters, resolved to exterminate the whole body of Baymen and slaves and root out and destroy the Settlement. But the resolution to exterminate and destroy was one thing, and to accomplish the work was another—as the Dons found out to their cost.

The most distinguishing feature of the remarkable event was the gallantry and true nobleness of nature displayed by the slaves, who, regardless of the bondage in which they were held and remembering only the kindness they had received from their masters,



BATHING KRAAL AT ST. GEORGE'S CAY

when they heard that danger threatened their masters' works and homesteads and the clouds were accumulating in protentous masses over the Bay, abandoned their peaceful homes and safe retreats in the bush where they were working and rushed to the assistance of their masters, and there assembled around their masters in force and numbers, armed with machetes, axes and muskets; some, in the absence of a better weapon of defence, armed themselves with "pork and do boy" sticks, sharpened to a needle like point, and all right loyally and devotedly declared their intention, to aid in beating off the Spaniards or dying with their masters in the conflict then evidently near at hand.

After the battle, Captain Moss of the "Merlin" in reporting the occurrence, wrote that the spirit of the Slaves that manned the small crafts was wonderful, and the good management of the different commanders did them great credit. It appears that when the Spaniards were sufficiently near, Capt. Moss gave a signal to the Baymen and slaves to engage, and he stated that the order was obeyed with a cool and determined firmness which would have done credit to veterans.

On the 10th of September, next, will be just 100 years since that victory, and I hope that that event will not be allowed to pass this year unheeded and that not only this, but each year after this, the day will be duly observed.

I was asked to take the chair on this occasion as I am somewhat specially interested in that memorable day. My father was born at St. George's Cay in 1795 consequently was only 3 years old at the time of the battle, but my grandfather James Usher with his slaves took a very active part and fought on that occasion.

Certain resolutions will be moved which I hope will meet with the general approval, the matter is one that affects not only a few, nor a class of persons only, but it affects every individual now living in this Colony.

The victory was gained by united efforts and on united efforts must now depend a proper celebration and commemoration of that eventful day.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. CHARLES H. EYLES, M.D., COLONIAL SURGEON,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, NORTH FRONT ST.,
BELIZE, ON WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL, 1898, TO CONSIDER
THE CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S CAY, 1798.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

THE resolution I have been deputed to present to you this evening runs as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting the centenary of the
"Battle of St. George's Cay is an event of public interest
"and should be properly celebrated and commemorated as
"such."

You will observe that you are asked to declare three things, viz., first that the centenary of the Battle of Saint George's Cay is an event of public interest, second that it should be celebrated, and third that the Battle be commemorated.

If anyone having a copy of Burnaby's Code will turn to it, he will see that our predecessors describe themselves as inhabitants of the Bay of Honduras, or as we may say for shortness, Baymen. This very description informs us that they had no abiding place on land; that their habitation was the water; for a bay is an arm of the sea. When they were on land they were there by sufferance and not by right. But after the Battle of Saint George's Cay, their right to the land was undisputed, it was theirs by virtue of conquest; and thereafter we find them describing themselves as Settlers and later as Colonists. This was a great change, brought about directly by the Battle fought here on the 10th September, 1798. This change affects the every day life of every man, woman and child in this Colony whatever may be the creed, caste, colour, nationality or occupation of the individual. It is owing to this Battle, under God's providence, that each one of us is enabled in this place to worship Almighty God as his conscience dictates, and pursue the even tenor of his way, under the protection of the strong arm of British justice, and under the shelter of the grand old flag.

Inasmuch, therefore, as the consequences that flowed from this Battle are such as daily affect every individual member of the Community, I submit you should have no difficulty whatsoever in declaring the event to be one of PUBLIC INTEREST.

But mark; you are asked to say more. You are asked to declare that this event should be celebrated; even to go further and resolve it should be commemorated. Herein lies the real issue: Is

the event of sufficient interest to be celebrated and commemorated? To some persons the mere fact that this Battle transferred the sovereignty of the soil to Great Britain would of itself be enough to decide the matter. To my mind this is too narrow a view to take of the event. I say this advisedly. For even if this happy result did not follow, there would yet be ample reason and cause both to celebrate and to commemorate the Battle. This is an event which can afford to be judged of without reference to material results; without reference to any national question. It is one we can all approach on the one common ground of humanity.

For the central fact of this Battle is that masters and slaves stood **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** to fight the foe; the slaves rejecting the offer of freedom held out to them as an incentive to betray their masters. Whether these masters and their slaves fought for us or against us, or whether we had nothing to do with the matter, is, for the present, at least, beside the question. I submit it is the common privilege of humanity to admire a gallant act by whomsoever it may have been performed. Had this act been performed thousands of miles away by men having no connection with us whatever we would admire it, and regret that we could not find some excuse to do public homage to the memory of those engaged in it. But mark you, the scene of this noble and gallant deed lies at our very doors, and the descendants of those who performed it are in our midst. Do you now need any excuse to celebrate and commemorate the date? Emphatically no. But let us not speak of excuses, when we have reasons to offer.

We, loyal subjects of our Sovereign Lady, the Queen, we, I say,

Saxon or Dane, or Norman, We
Teuton or Celt or whatever we be;

claim it as our birthright to celebrate an event which is typical of the manner in which our magnificent Empire had been established. For shortness, we speak of this Empire as England but it is not English men alone who have shed their blood on its behalf. Welsh men, Irish men, Scotch men, Asiatics, Africans, men of all races, men of all creeds have stood side by side to strike a blow and be stricken in the sacred cause of our common country. From the annals of other parts of the Empire, it is true we may be able to produce somewhat similar incidents. But, however similar incidents may be, our local incident differs from all others in that the men who stood side by side here stood in relationship to one another of master and slave. And remember the slaves had every inducement to act otherwise. For not only was the offer of freedom held out to them by the invader but every act of preparation by their masters for the coming conflict showed that the issue they expected was defeat and extermination.

But, Gentlemen, it is not merely our privilege as men and our birthright as British Subjects to celebrate and commemorate this

event. It is our duty to do so. Let me present the case to you on the narrowest possible issue. When we bestow rewards, let these rewards be material, or be they in the form of praise and admiration, we encourage others to emulate the actions of those we reward.

The action we now ask you to reward by celebration and commemoration is nothing more or less than to sink every distinction of creed, caste and colour in the defence of country. Is this a small matter? Is not this a plain duty? Would it not be suicidal to do otherwise? Would it not be utter folly to put such action at a discount by withholding our praise and admiration? Your answer to these questions will be given not now but when the anniversary of the battle of Saint George's Caye arrives, and then by the action you take to celebrate it.

The spirit which animated the Baymen and their slaves still survives. As representing the race of the Baymen let me take Field Marshal Lord Roberts that great little man BOSS BAHADUR. In 1887, at peril of his own life, he saved that of a Hindu sowar that is as you would say a coolie cavalry-man. As representing the race of the slaves let me instance the case of GORDON, a West Indian soldier, who in 1893, at peril of his life, saved that of Major MADDEN, one of his officers. In the cause of Country each was equally prepared to risk his life to save that of another of a different race, and British Justice demands that each should be equally rewarded. Accordingly, each of them wears on his breast the proudest decoration that can be bestowed on a British Soldier—the VICTORIA CROSS. If either of these men were to come here to-night what an ovation you would give him. If they stood on this platform together your enthusiasm would know no bounds, even though their acts were performed at different places. But the action of the Baymen and their slaves was performed at the same time and the same spot; and great though the gap may be between a Field Marshal and the rank and file of a West Indian Regiment, the gap between Master and Slave is greater. I have cited these two VICTORIA CROSS MEN because each is a living example of the two races of Baymen and their slaves. And I have cited the VICTORIA CROSS in this connection because the events we ask you to celebrate and commemorate is such as would be deemed worthy of that distinction if they happened to-day. As an example, let me cite RORKE'S DRIFT. At RORKE'S DRIFT, a handful of men made a stand in face of what seemed certain death and extermination. This gallant act sent a thrill of pride throughout the length and breadth of the Empire and the leaders in it were decorated with the VICTORIA CROSS. So it was here 100 years ago. A handful of Baymen deliberately prepared for death and extermination. They burnt their houses, burst their tanks, and then stood at bay to fight to the bitter end—to the death. So much for the gallant Baymen. But what of their slaves? Did these deliberate preparation for death and extermination dismayed them? Did they desert? No. They even rejected the offer of life and freedom if they would be false to their owners. To them death with

fidelity was more honourable than life with falsity even though it were coupled with freedom. They demonstrated this by their act; for they stood **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** with their masters to meet what seemed certain death. It is this gallant and heroic act we ask you to celebrate and commemorate, and which we hold to be the duty of everyone to celebrate and commemorate.

But, it may be urged, one third of our fellow Colonists belong to that race who were the invaders in 1798. Can they join hands with us in the matter? Where is the difficulty? Our Yucatecan fellow countrymen themselves threw off their allegiance to Spain and not long after offered the sovereignty of their country to Great Britain; and to-day they enjoy what their fathers wished to enjoy, the rights and privileges of British Subjects. And this the celebration of a National event, local though it be, comes within those rights. It would be unworthy of ourselves and ungenerous and unjust to our Yucatecan fellow subjects even to think that they would not join hands with us on this occasion. The proud chivalrous blood of their ancestors would rebel in their veins if they refused to do honour for an act of heroism. Depend upon it, Gentlemen, that our Yucatecan brethren, descended as they are from a proud, generous and chivalrous race will yield a second place to no one in appreciation of a gallant act.

After what I have said, Gentlemen, I submit you should have no difficulty in adopting the **RESOLUTION** I have put to you; so I need pursue that subject no further. But permit me to say a few words on my own behalf.

To celebrate and commemorate an event money is necessary. Do not rest satisfied with merely passing this **RESOLUTION**, but work and strive to procure the wherewithal to give effect to it. In this matter let our watchword be **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** in honour to those gallant fellows who stood here **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** 100 years ago. Then when the day of celebration comes, let us cheerfully and joyfully yield to our creole brethren the first place, and let us rally round them right loyally to do honour to their ancestors. Let us render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's

As to how the event is to be commemorated; that will depend upon the decision of those you may appoint to give effect to your wishes, and upon the ways and means at their disposal. Let us work to obtain some tangible evidence of our appreciation of those who come sinking every other consideration stood **SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** in the common cause. But allow me to suggest a very simple way to perpetuate the memory of this event. Not to supplant other methods of commemoration but to supplement them. Adopt as the motto of this Colony the words

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

so as to keep the memory of this gallant deed ever green. Then in

the future when people ask, why is it that you people of British Honduras have this as your motto? Then

With weeping and with laughter
Shall be the story told
Of how those gallant fellows fought
In the brave days of old.

For ourselves, Gentlemen, let us be deeply grateful to the Baymen and their slaves. Grateful to them for the heritage they have transmitted to us. The heritage of a noble example of

COURAGE AND FIDELITY.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. R. H. LOGAN, BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, NORTH FRONT ST.,
BELIZE, ON WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL, 1898, TO CONSIDER
THE CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S CAY, 1798.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said
This is my own my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,
As homewards his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there be, go, mark him well;
For him no minstrel raptures swell,
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power and pelf;
The wretch, concentred all in self,
Living, shall forfeit fair renown;
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust, from whence he sprang,
Unwept, unhonoured and unsung."

THAT love of country which is celebrated so forcibly and so beautifully in these noble lines must cause the heart of every man to burn within him, not only as he turns his footsteps homeward from wandering on a foreign strand but even with intensest ardour when he peruses the history of heroic deeds performed by his ancestors.

As an Englishman must feel a thrill of pride and of patriotism run through his veins when he reads the story of the defeat of the Armada of Spain; as a Scotchman must glow with enthusiasm when he thinks of the glorious battle of BANNOCKBURN; so should every creole of British Honduras, every descendant of the Baymen, feel his heart warm within him when he listens to the tale of the Battle of Saint George's Cay.

I feel that an easy task has been imposed upon me this evening in moving the RESOLUTION that stands in my name, for I am certain that it has only to be read to meet with the instant approval of every native of this Colony.

The resolution is as follows:—

“That His Excellency the Governor in Council be moved to direct that the 9th and 10th days of September, 1898, be celebrated and kept as public holidays as being days of local interest.”

The importance of this resolution lies in the fact that as the law stands extraordinary holidays may be directed by the Governor in Council to be celebrated and kept only upon occasions of national or local interest.

To argue the question as to whether the anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Cay is an occasion of local interest or not would be a work of supererogation. If any arguments were needed they have been abundantly supplied in the remarks that have fallen from our worthy chairman, from Dr. Eyles, and the other speakers. I shall not therefore waste your time by any further argument; but I think it may be interesting as bearing on this point if I shortly relate to you one or two of the incidents which took place before the battle and which illustrate the patriotism which the inhabitants then displayed. I have not had leisure to read over very carefully the history of that time as it is to be found in the records of the Settlement but what little I have seen all goes to prove the intense patriotism which actuated and animated the old Baymen of 1798.

It is quite true that at one time the Settlers had almost lost heart. In June, 1797, the question of evacuation of the Settlement was seriously debated in the public meeting and was only lost by a majority of 14 votes in a total number of 116 votes. When we consider, however, the perilous crisis in which they had for so long found themselves we can hardly blame the inhabitants for so nearly giving up what looked to them so unequal a struggle.

Ever since the beginning of 1797, if not sooner, the whole effective force of the Settlement had been collected in Belize and martial law had been almost continually in operation. The slaves being assembled in Belize the plantations were left untended and provisions became so scarce that the inhabitants were compelled again and again to apply to Jamaica for assistance, and, at one time was almost decided by the Commander to H.M.S. Merlin to withdraw from the Settlement on account of the difficulty of procuring “Bread-kind” for his crew. The records contain many references to the eagerly expected arrival of vessels from Jamaica with provisions, and the inhabitants seem to have lived a hand to mouth existence eked out by the establishment of temporary provision grounds near Belize, which were only sufficient to furnish them with half rations.

When, however, the Baymen had finally determined to stick to the Settlement their preparations for defence went forward in no half-hearted manner.

From January 1798 lookout boats one to the northward and one to the southward, each manned by 10 men were maintained and were relieved every 14 days by others of similar size.

A patriotic Bayman, Mr. Garnett, offered his schooner "Active" for 14 days or for one month if required, with 15 hands, free of all expense to the Settlement except only reasonable wages to the person who should go as master and double rations for his crew.

Dr. Kennedy offered free medical attendance and medicines to all those doing duty under martial law.

No doubt other individuals followed these patriotic examples, but the records of that time are so imperfect that no trace remains of such offers.

The Settlers had other things to attend to than writing minutes and entering records. In fact it was not till ten years later that these records were entered in the record books.

On July 21st it was resolved that no charge should be made by any person for the services of his slaves engaged in wooding and watering H. M. S. "Merlin" or the troops. On the 9th August Magistrates communicated to the Superintendent the decision of the public meeting that the houses at St. George's Cay should be destroyed, and on the 24th it was resolved

"The every inhabitant of the Settlement who derives pecuniary advantages from Government either by contract, personal services, rent of houses or stores, hire of boats, mows or crafts or in any other way whatsoever, shall give up the whole of their emoluments during martial law for the benefit of the settlement."

This resolution was carried at a meeting of the magistrates and inhabitants with only ONE dissenting voice.

That dissenting individual, I suspect, gentlemen, lying forfeited his fair renown, and doubly dying, went down to the vile dust from whence he sprang, unwept, unhonoured, and unsung.

At all events, as far as I can discover, there is no person now in this Colony who bears his name.

Gentlemen, not only were these old Baymen patriotic and courageous—they were also modest and grateful.

As far as I can discover the only thing on the records to show that the battle of St. George's Cay resulted in a victory for the Settlers is a description of how they voted a presentation sword value 100 guineas to Captain Moss of H. M. S. "Merlin", and letters of thanks, and recommendations to the admiralty for promotion, for Capt. Moss and for other persons who had taken a prominent part in the battle.

Gentlemen, perhaps you will think it a fitting termination to these exploits of the old Baymen that a year or two afterwards

when all fear of the Spaniards had passed away they obtained payment from the British Government, to the owners of the houses destroyed at St. George's Cay or compensation to the extent of £2600 Jamaica Currency.

I have now much pleasure in moving

"That His Excellency the Governor in Council be moved
"to direct that the 9th and 10th days of September, 1898,
"be celebrated and kept as public holidays as being days of
"local interest".

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. SYDNEY GOWER WOODS, BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, NORTH FRONT ST.,
BELIZE, ON WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL, 1898, TO CONSIDER
THE CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S CAY.

THIS ADDRESS WAS DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE REVD. FATHER
CASPAR LEIB WHO WAS UNAVOIDABLY ABSENT.

*It may be mentioned, en passant, that Mr. Woods was the first
native of British Honduras to qualify at the English Bar.
His career was both brilliant and successful.*

THE Committee of convenors has seen fit to select me to present one of the resolutions to be submitted to this grand meeting to-night. Why their choice should have fallen upon me or why they should ask me to put before you this particular resolution was not mine to enquire. "Mine not to question why, mine but to bow and comply."

We are assembled for a very interesting discussion, the celebration and commemoration of a great action, a glorious event of one hundred years ago. Great striking occurrences, having excited temporary admiration, often pass away and are forgotten, because they leave no lasting results, affecting the property of communities. Of the ten thousand battles which had been fought; of all the fields fertilized with carnage; of the banners which had been bathed in blood, of the warriors who had hoped that they might rise from a field of conquest to a glory as bright and durable as the stars, how few continue long to interest mankind! Victor and vanquished presently pass away to oblivion, and the world holds its course, with the loss only of so many lives and so much treasure.

But if this is frequently, or generally, the fortune of military achievements, it is not always so. There are enterprises, military as well as civil, that sometimes check the current of events, give a new turn to human affairs and transmit their consequences through ages.

We see their importance in their results and call them great because great things follow. There have been battles which have fixed the fate of nations. These come down to us in history with a solid and permanent influence. And such is the battle of St. George's Cay. When the visitor pauses on its sandy beach, what are the emotions which strongly agitate his breast! What is that glorious recollection that thrills through his frame! Not that the skill and valour of the Baymen were here most signally displayed, but that their homes and their hearts were saved. It is because to this spot and to the event which has rendered it immortal to the victors, their descendants and successors in this colony, he refers all the success of British Honduras. It is because he perceives that the place and property of the Colony, her government and institutions point backward to the scene of St. George's Cay battle, and that their future existence seems to have depended on the contingency whether the Spanish or English banner would have been victorious in the beams of that day's setting sun. He is transported back in imagination to that interesting moment; he counts the fearful odds of the contending hosts, his interests for the result overwhelms him; he trembles as if it were still uncertain whether the Baymen have secured peace and tranquillity for themselves and their families. Such are the emotions excited when we refer back to that event which may be considered as the national glory of this colony.

But that great action not only secured independence from a foreign yoke forever for the colonists, it established a safe harbour of refuge for those who under England's flag and this colony's protection, prosecute their avocations of life in undisturbed tranquillity. Men of all nations and of all races are welcome to enjoy the freedom and prosperity resultant on the victory of St. George's Cay. And it is on behalf and in the name of this great portion of the inhabitants of British Honduras that I am convinced the committee desired me to speak. Coming from other climes they have sought the protection of its beneficent laws, within its borders they have found the peace and security of which they were deprived in their own and over them the mantle of just and equitable government is spread with the same impartiality as over the founders of this part of Her Majesty's dominions. Equally with the descendants of the original Baymen they can fearlessly till their milpas and work their ranchos, or plough the furrows of the sea, drawing forth the products of the soil, felling the rich harvests of precious woods so lavishly spread over the colony or carrying the latter in their crafts to our Metropolis whence they are dispatched to less fortunate realms.

In behalf of these as well as of all other inhabitants of British Honduras I am to move the resolution.

That the co-operation of the Government and the several District Boards throughout the Colony be invited to carry the celebration and commemoration to a successful issue.

Well, it almost appears to me as if this resolution and its realization were a foregone conclusion. The Government and the Dist-



A SUMMER RESIDENCE AT ST. GEORGE'S CAY

Boards are invited to co-operate. Why? The event we are to celebrate is the very basis on which our Government is founded. Where would Her Majesty's Crown Colony of British Honduras be but for the glorious victory of St. George's Cay? Where would our efficient District Boards throughout the Colony be were it not that the success of that battle secured for us a government in which District Boards are a possibility.

With such a genial and energetic Governor as we are blessed with at present, and a council composed of men to whom the interests of the colony are their own, it would seem invidious to say:—"The people you govern intend to celebrate an event which is the most glorious in their history and we ask you to aid us in making this celebration a success! Should we not rather say:—"How can we assist you in celebrating and commemorating the establishment of your authority. What can we do to bring it to a successful issue? And to the Boards to whom interests of the various districts have been entrusted, should we not say: "How can we promote interests by assisting you in a worthy celebration and commemoration of the foundation of our independence and freedom"?"

However, as a committee of convenors have taken the matter in hand and their object is to encourage the people of the colony to celebrate and commemorate the centennial of their final deliverance from a foreign power. They have wisely decided that it should be a popular demonstration, a celebration by and for the people, whilst at the same time recognizing the importance of harmonious action of Government and people they call upon the authorities that be, the Government and the District Boards for their assistance.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. CARL A. METZGEN,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, NORTH FRONT ST.,
 BELIZE, ON WEDNESDAY, 6th APRIL, 1898, TO CONSIDER
 THE CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE
 CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF
 ST. GEORGE'S CAY, 1798.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

I beg to move,

"That a Committee of 40 members be appointed with power to add to their number for the purpose of carrying out the objects embodied in the forgoing resolutions and that, of this original Committee of 40, the Government be asked to nominate 10 and the Belize District Board 10; and this meeting, do proceed forthwith to elect 20."

It seems almost unnecessary for me to say anything further, but I am made to understand I must offer you a few words by way of explanation. While I was sitting down, listening to those well springs from which such copious floods of eloquence were issuing, it occurred to me that my position was not unlike that of the lank, awkward countryman, who presented himself at the clerk's desk in a City Hotel, and, after having a room assigned to him, inquired at what hour meals were served.

The clerk glibly answered, "Breakfast 7 to 11, luncheon from 11 to 3, dinner from 3 to 8, supper from 8 to 11."

"Jerusalem!" exclaimed the countryman, with bulging eyes, "when am I going to get time to see the town?" I verily asked myself when would I get time to move my resolution? Now, gentlemen, notwithstanding the fact that the resolution which I have just read, is the least one to be placed before you to-night for your adoption or otherwise, it follows by no means that it is an unimportant one.

If I understand aright, the committee of convenors when framing this resolution endeavoured to make its scope as wide as possible so that when the celebration committee is constituted, it shall be thoroughly representative. We have every reason to believe that the nominations to be made by the Government and the Belize District Board will be made with discretion, and judgment.

As to the 20 members to be elected by you to-night, my only fear is you may be troubled with an embarrassment of riches, but I am confident your selections will be happy and satisfactory to all.

It is just possible that some one among us, entertaining the praiseworthy wish to become a member of the celebration committee, may not be elected. I would like to remind the probable disappointed one, that while all cannot become members of that committee

every one can undoubtedly help to make the celebration and commemoration of that peculiar historical day an unqualified success.

If I may be allowed to trespass on your time a little longer I would like to say a few words to the ambitious youths of my country.

You have had your minds almost lost in amazement by the fervid eloquence to which you have listened to-night, on the greatness, grandeur, and glory of the British Empire; but where are you? and what are you in that glorious Empire? Your hearts have been filled to-night with the desire to hand down to posterity a befitting commemoration of that September day, but you, the youth of this country, are the masters of that posterity.

You are the rising generation of a new order of things, the old inhabitants and organizations have passed or are passing away. You will be called upon to perform duties, probably great duties; see that you fit yourselves for them, that they may be greatly performed. This is your inheritance.

I know, alas! there are those even in this hall to-night, who are believers in the "can any good come out of Nazareth" doctrine, who will tell you it is wicked for you to aspire. To such I would advise ye say, "Get thee behind me Satan."

He who enters the world must find his level, but rest assured the man that does not aspire is destined perhaps to grovel. The bond slaves who fought at the battle of St. George's Cay and side by side with their masters sustained that conflict, did so with an endurance and fortitude not inferior to their masters could not have been without aspiration, else you would not be here to-night to seek to do them honour. They recognize the two fold bond, duty and fidelity. We are told that glories of human greatness are but pleasing dreams and shadows, soon decaying; and its truth none will hardly deny. But who would not prefer fame to life: yet the consciousness of heroic deeds is preferable to the most widespread celebrity.

BRITISH FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

WE are living to-day under a flag that is a symbol of the most complete religious liberty and of the most untrammelled individual liberty. This is due to the heroes who, for three days, struggled against overwhelming odds to keep the feet of the tyrants of America from treading the soil of British Honduras. Indeed, the victory of Saint George's Cay was to this Colony what the defeat of the Spanish Armada was to England. Two battles—to compare great with small things—have a curious resemblance. In each case the superiority of the Spaniards in ships and in men were immense, and in each case the defenders were doubtful of the result of the battle.

Many, who have all their lives been under the protection of the British FLAG and under the aegis of English law, do not fully realise all that that means, and how different their lives would be under the flags of surrounding Nations, but more particularly under the Spanish Flag.

The most characteristic thing of the British people is the reverence for and obedience to the law shown by all, from the sovereign on the throne to the beggar on the dunghill. It is this, coupled with the liberty of the press, that renders the maintenance of civil and religious liberty permanent. We give the following illustration of our meaning—CASTELAR, the Spanish Orator and Statesman, coming from his own country to GREAT BRITAIN exclaimed, after studying the institutions of the latter—"Oh! Country of my eternal admiration!" And declared that freedom and the protection of the law, there, are superior to what they are in France, Republic though it be. More than 100 years ago, Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham was asked by, we believe, the Spanish Ambassador, what he considered the thing that Englishmen should be most proud of; and the great Commoner replied, "The personal liberty of the subject," and referring to a charcoal burner's hut—whose partially unroofed condition recently attracted their attention—said that the winds and the rains might enter that miserable hut but not the KING OF ENGLAND without permission.

More than 30 years ago a Hindoo compelled the Secretary of State for India to do him justice. This NATIVE OF INDIA, after studying in England, passed a successful examination for the Indian Civil Service and, by law, was entitled to a post therein. Some one informed the Secretary of State that the declaration made by the Hindoo of being under 23 years was false. The Secretary of State called on the Hindoo for an explanation, and was told by him that, by the Hindoo Calendar, he was over 22 but that by the European Calendar he was under 22 years, and that as the declaration of British competitors were made under the latter he was justified in doing the same. The Secretary of State thereupon refused to appoint him to the office

for which he had successfully competed. It is safe to say that, under like circumstances, the Hindoo would have no means of redress against so powerful a Minister—we believe it was the Duke of Argyle as the Secretary of State for India—in any other country in the world. What could this uninfluential, friendless Hindoo do against a member of the Cabinet, supported by a majority in Parliament and by the confidence of his sovereign? What he did do was very simple. He secured the services of able counsel and obtained a writ calling on the Secretary of State to show cause why the Hindoo should not be installed in the office for which he had successfully competed. The Secretary of State's Counsel failing to show cause, the Court ordered the Secretary of State to install the Hindoo in office; and the great Duke of Argyle had to comply with the order of the Court.

In many countries—particularly in the neighbouring Republics—LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY are not only loudly proclaimed but are, to a very great extent, embodied in beautiful laws which are frequently, very frequently, more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Paper laws and constitutions are altered and repealed; and new and better ones substituted therefor—to be again, to a great extent, ignored. And this goes on from year to year. This contrast ought to make us thankful that we live under a Government that respects the law and causes it to be respected and under which—Crown Colony though it be and deprived of political power though the Colonists are—the most extensive civil and religious liberty is enjoyed in equal degree by the richest and the poorest, by every race and by every denomination.

Colonial Guardian 16th April, 1898.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE HON. F. M. MAXWELL,

AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE HALL, ON 17th
OCTOBER, 1898.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

THIS meeting was originally called and now meets to attest and not I hope by words only our sympathy with the calamity which has befallen our fellow colonists in the neighbouring Islands. But, before we enter upon that subject, it is right that we should first deplore our own loss and express our sorrowing sympathy with the grief stricken widow and orphan of the wise and good man who has been so suddenly taken from us. Even in the midst of their grief it can-

not but be a consolation to be reminded of the admiration and respect with which their loved one was regarded by all who came in contact with him, and that the whole town, nay, the whole Colony, save perhaps a few poor Indians, recognise that they have lost a friend, a champion, almost a father. There are many other friends, intimate personal friends of Mr. Logan, more capable than I and who it might have perhaps been thought, at first sight, should have been selected in priority to me, to address you on this matter; but I cannot help thinking that great wisdom has been shewn in the choice that has been made. We know that friends are partial and when friend speaks of friend, however great his eloquence, however earnest his convictions, however strong the facts he quotes, we cannot help discounting what he says and thinking that some allowance must be made because of that very friendship. But, gentlemen, you see in me one who has been almost habitually opposed to Mr. Logan. Such opposition is inevitable between two members of the same profession in a small place. A legal friend who has left this Colony, and with whom also, in spite of this inevitable opposition between us, I was on friendly terms, in giving me at his departure a souvenir to keep of him inscribed it in a friendly way, "To F. M. Maxwell from his constant antagonist". This unavoidable antagonism between us which might have easily but never did degenerate into personal spite and secret or open ill-feeling, gives, I say, a stronger weight to the testimony which I bear to Mr. Logan's life and character. There can be no partiality in an antagonist; the bias would necessarily be entirely in the opposite direction. The testimony which I bear to my deceased friend and opponent after the experience of nearly 13 years, after having tried him in every possible manner, and every possible situation is that he was a man of the most strict integrity, the soul of honour, a man whose word was in every way equal to his bond; a great lawyer, a lawyer whose thorough knowledge and sound application of the principles of law would undoubtedly in a larger sphere, where his talents would have had more scope, have gained him even greater credit and greater praise and higher distinction than here where they could only rarely and at intervals be shown. You all know that he was an able advocate; a speaker who on any subject could delight and instruct an audience. You all know how even in the turmoil—no slight one—of a lawyer's life he preserved his even temper, his affable friendly ways; how ready at all time he was to listen and do justice to the complaints of the poorest, sacrificing his own time and his own ease without possibility or thought of gain and perhaps paving the way to the sudden stroke which without a moment's warning terminated his career. I know, and many of you must know, of secret acts of generosity which, tho' never a rich man, he has done, and which was never mentioned by him but which have come to light thro' the gratitude of those benefitted. Above all you knew him as a man who adopted this Colony as his home and who desired and strove for its prosperity in a manner that no man born in this Colony of a long line of Creole ancestors has ever surpassed. His home was in Belize, his ambitions



STREET SCENE—ST. GEORGE'S CAY

were confined to the Colony and he never wished or cared to leave it. This patriotism coupled with his great natural gifts, his amiable conciliatory disposition, his upright character entitled him to a prominent position, in fact the lead in all public matters and the oftener he spoke or acted in any public matter the more deeprooted and widespread was the esteem with which he was held. As a Forester, I may be excused in speaking of him specially as a Forester, he desired to benefit and improve the people and strengthen and advance not only his own but every Friendly Society. Every member will remember certain wise and farseeing proposals which he made for the governance of all Friendly Societies in Belize, proposals which were never carried out but which I trust sincerely will some day be universally accepted. As a member of the Legislative Council he brought to every question long experience and sound judgment and strove at the sacrifice of his own time and in the midst of his other cares to advance and maintain in every way the interests of the Colony. As a member of that Council and as the law officer of the Crown I know perhaps better than any other what an irreparable loss the Government has sustained by Mr. Logan's death. Time does not allow me to trace Mr. Logan's career from the time when in 1886 he welcomed me to this Colony to the evening, the fatal evening of the 12th, when for the last time I saw him still in harness drilling some Volunteers, without so far as I know the slightest premonition of the doom, which, within a few short hours, was to snatch him from us. I can only say in a word that this Colony has lost one of the best citizens it ever had and every man within this town and many a man beyond it has lost a sincere friend and an able counsellor. I therefore move:—

“That this meeting expresses its deep sense of the loss which
— “the Colony has sustained by the death of the Hon’ble Robert
“Henry Logan and its heartfelt sympathy with his widow
“and family in their affliction.”

The motion was seconded by Hon. B. Fairweather and adopted unanimously.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—MY COUNTRY

By J. S. MARTINEZ

British Honduras; my country so dear!
 How sweet is the sound of thy name to my ear;
 No country though grand or though great it may be,
 Can sever the tie that unites me to thee.
 What rapture of joy in my soul doth awake!
 What beautiful fancies my wand'ring thoughts take,
 When journeying afar from thy shores—sweet and dear,
 The sound of thy dear name is caught on my ear!

British Honduras; my country so dear!
 With forests with timbers of quality rare;—
 Where antelopes flourish, and deer and game—
 Peccaries and others too numerous to name.
 Where long winding rivers of clear running stream,
 Flow over smooth pebbles that glitter and gleam;
 And fishes and bicattees swim along slow,
 And sparkling blithe bilhams speed on to and fro.

British Honduras; my country so dear!
 With fruit trees abundant—of guava, of pear,
 Of mango, of cashew, of grape (fine to eat)
 Of orange, of pineapple (juicy and sweet)—
 With well laid plantations where planters do sow,
 Cassava and yam—making row after row;
 And excellent suckers for acres around;
 Where long stemmed bananas and plantains are found.

British Honduras; my country so dear!
 What country with thee can I ever compare?
 Be they ever so beautiful, ever so grand,
 There is none dear to me as my own native land!
 I love well their mansions and beautiful streets;
 Their marvellous wonders my yearning soul greets;
 But down deep within there's vacant place still,
 That only dear British Honduras can fill.

British Honduras; my country so dear!
 Where my cradle was rocked and attended with care,
 Where the first breath of air and the first gleam of light
 Was poured in my nostrils and blazed on my sight;
 Where my parents and playmates and all those most dear
 Have joyed with my laughter and grieved with my tear;—
 How strong is the tie that is binding me near,
 Oh! British Honduras; my country so dear!

MEMORIES OF ST. GEORGE'S CAY

By JOHN ROZEL CUTHBERT,
Oxford, England.

*Son of the Hon. Sydney Cuthbert, M.E.C., O.B.E., J.P. and
Mrs. Cuthbert of Belize.*

Oft have I lain in those dear days of old

And watched the sunlight play with wanton glee
Among the palm fronds, and, with beams of gold,
Make myriad twinkles on a dimpling sea.

The waving music of the palms aloft,

The long blue rollers breaking on the reef,
Like distant thunder, muffled, deep, and soft,
Soothed me to slumber, sent my soul relief.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Baron Bliss

The Colony is in need of enterprising settlers and capitalists to develop its potential resources, and it is hoped that the recent bequest to it of the Baron Bliss Trust will provide, when it becomes available, an annual amount for expenditure on works required for development and general benefit.

Archaeology

The Colony abounds in interesting ruins of the ancient Maya civilization. Lubaantun is the most important of these. Exploration is being conducted by the British Museum and there is every reason to believe that in the not dim distance the Colony's entire Maya ruins will be discovered and comprehensively examined.

Fishing

There is wonderful sea fishing all along the coast and round the Cays. Tarpon and other species are in great numbers.

Recreation

Belize possesses several social and recreation clubs. Tennis, Polo, Football, Cricket, Baseball, etc. are played. Regatta is held twice a year, early in March and the latter part of December. Horse Races are usually held on the 26th December and the 1st January, sometimes on the 3rd June.

Trade

The trade of the Colony from the 1st January, 1913, to the 31st December, 1927, was worth \$107,000,000.

50% of the Colony's trade is with the United States of America.

Trade with Canada has increased wonderfully since 1920. In that year the imports amounted to \$24,000 and in 1927 to over \$500,000. The exports in 1920 was nil and in 1927, \$145,700, of which \$74,500 was domestic produce.

Currency

British Honduras possesses its own currency in dollars and cents, the par value being \$4.86 to the £ based on the U. S. dollar, and backed by a heavy gold reserve.



GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS—BELIZE

THE JUBILEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bank

The only bank in the Colony is the Belize Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada of which Mr. C. R. Beattie, J. P., is Manager.

Finances

The revenue of the Colony during the year 1926-27 totalled \$1,116,400 of which 61% was derived from Customs, 18% from Internal Taxation, 6% from Government Property and 15% from other.

The expenditure during the same period was \$1,040,500.

The total revenue received during the last 15 years totalled \$12,800,000.

The surplus balance on the 31st March, 1927, was \$254,500.

Steamship Communication

The United Fruit Company boats call at Belize twice weekly, sometimes oftener, to and from New Orleans and Mobile and monthly from New York.

The Canadian Government Merchant Marine calls every three weeks from and to Montreal or Halifax.

The Harrison Line from Liverpool calls about once a month.

Throughout the year steamers are nearly always in port loading mahogany for the United States or Europe.
