

A.

FULL AND CORRECT ACCOUNT

OF THE

# MILITARY OCCURRENCES

OF

THE LATE WAR

LHC

BETWEEN

973.3  
J29

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

AND

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;**

WITH

**AN APPENDIX,**

AND

**PLATES.**

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**BY WILLIAM JAMES,**

AUTHOR OF " A FULL AND CORRECT ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF  
NAVAL OCCURRENCES, &c."

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SALLUST.



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# MILITARY OCCURRENCES,

.c. 4c.

## CHAPTER XI.

*British force on the Niagara in October, 1813—*

*Attack upon the piquets—Effects of the surrender of the right division—Major-general Vincent's retreat to Burlington—His orders from the commander-in-chief to retire upon Kingston—Fortunate contravention of those orders—General Harrison's arrival at, and departure from Fort-George Association of some Upper Canada militia after being disembodied—Their gallant attack upon, and capture of, a band of plundering traitors—General M'Clure's shameful conduct towards the Canadian inhabitants—Colonel Murray's gallant behaviour Its effect upon general M'Clure—A Canadian winter—Night-conflagration of Newark by the Americans—M'Clure's abandonment of Fort-George, and flight across the river—Arrival of lieutenant-general DruMmond—Assault upon, and capture of Fort-Niagara—Canadian prisoners found there Retaliatory destruction of LeWistown,*

**VOL. JR.**

*Youngstown, Illanchester, and Tuscarora—Attack upon Bufaloe and Black Rock, and destruction Of those ifillagei—Americaii resentment against general 31' Clure—Remarks upon the campaign ; also upon the burning of Newark, and the measures pursued in retaliation.*

HAVING brought the campaign of 1813 to a close upon the northern,; and north-western, Canadian frontiers, the operations along both shores of the Niagara come, next, to be detailed. Major-general Vincent, who again commanded,' in the absence of general De Rottenburg, the centre-division, had received, since the middle of September, a reinforcement of the 100th regiment; in order to counter-balance the reduction his force would sustain in the departure of the 49th and 104th regiments, already noticed. The general's head-quarters were at the Cross Roads; and the piquets of his advanced corps, which was commanded by colonel Murray, occasionally showed themselves• in the town of Newark. From the American accounts only we learn, that, on the 6th of October, "about 500 militia-volunteers and about 150 Indians, commanded by colonel Chapin," attacked the piquet-guard of the\_ British ; and, " after an hour and a half's bard-fighting," drove it upon the main-body ; when "the whole British army,

\* See Vol. I. p. 261.

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consisting of 1100 men, with the great general Vincent, at their head, fled into the woods." The British are declared to have sustained a loss of 32 in killed only, and the Americans of four killed and wounded. \* This is the way the " literary gentlemen" of the United States contrive to fill their " histories." Colonel, or doctor Chapin (for he professes, and is equally mischievous in, both characters) had lately escaped from the British, t and, for that exploit, been promoted ; probably by the secretary at war himself, as he was known to have been in the neighbourhood of the Niagara, while the Montreal expedition was preparing.

On the 9th of October intelligence of the disaster that had befallen the right division, reached the head-quarters of the centre-division; and caused general Vincent, after destroying considerable quantities of stores, , provisions, and Indian goods, to retreat, with his troops; towards Burlington Heights : where colonel Proctor joined him with the small remnant of his division. As soon as general Vincent and his troops had got well on their way to Burlington, major-general M'Clure, with the whole of his force, numbering 27000 men, besides Indians, marched a few miles along the road, and back. This was not without an object ; for we .Were afterwards 'told; that

\* Hist. of the War, p. 158. + See Vol. I. p. 218.

"general M'Clure, with the New York militia, volunteers, and Indians, succeeded in driving the British army from the vicinity of Fort George, and pursued them as far as the Twelve-mile Creek."

Major-general Proctor's discomfiture reached the head quarters of the "commander in chief about the middle of October ; and orders were instantly forwarded to major-general Vincent, directing him to commence upon his retreat without delay, and to evacuate all the British posts beyond Kingston. Some delay did fortunately take place, owing chiefly to counter-orders, not from head-quarters ; and a council of war, summoned at Burlington Heights, came to the noble resolution of not moving a step to the rear, in the present conjuncture of affairs on the peninsula. Fatal, indeed, would have been the retreat. There was still a considerable number of sick, both at Burlington Heights and at York ; and, considering the season of the year, and the state of the roads, the whole of them must have been left to the protection of the enemy. Nor, for the same reason, could the ordnance, ordnance-stores, baggage, and provisions, have followed the army ; and yet the garrison of Kingston, upon which place the troops were directed to retire, had, at this time, scarcely a week's provision in

\* History of the War, p. 158. •

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

store. This abandonment of territory so soon following up the affair at the Moravian village, what would the Indians have thought of us ?—In short, it will not bear reflection.

Towards the end of October, among other sacrifices caused by the dread of general Harrison's zeal and promptitude, two companies of the 100th regiment, which had been stationed at Charlottesville, in the London district of Upper Canada, were ordered to evacuate that post, and join the main body of the centre-division of the army at Burlington, distant 60 miles. Orders were at the same time issued, to disembody and disarm the militia. The officer who had this duty to perform, having ascertained that a large body of traitors and Americans had been plundering the houses of the inhabitants, while the latter were away in the service of their country, left a supply of arms and ammunition with some of the militia officers and privates. These, in number 45, immediately formed themselves into an association ; and marched, with lieutenant-colonel Bostwick, of the Oxford militia, at their head, against the marauders; whom they fortunately fell in with on the Lake Erie shore, about nine miles from Dover. An engagement ensued ; in which several of the gang were killed and wounded, and 18 taken prisoners. These 18 were afterwards tried at Ancaster for high treason ; and all, except three, convicted.

Eight of the 15, so convicted, underwent the penalty of the law. The remaining seven were respited, to await the prince regent's final decision ; and have since been transported. How highly, and yet how justly, this well-planned and well-executed enterprise was appreciated by the president of Upper Canada, will be seen in the general orders which he caused to be issued upon the occasion."

About theist of November general Harrison arrived at Fort-George, with about 1700 of his troops ; who, agreeably to Mr.. Secretary Armstrong's orders, were immediately quartered upon the inhabitants of Newark. In the course of November, both general Harrison and colonel Scott, with their respective corps, embarked on board commodore Chauncey's fleet for Sackett's Harbor ; leaving general McClure, with his '2700 militia, and a few regular troops, in charge of Fort-George. General McClure, . now having the entire command to himself, and being disappointed, notwithstanding all the intrigues of his friend Wilcocks, in his endeavours " to secure the friendship and co-operation of the inhabitants," began sending the most obstinate of the latter across to the American side, and then set about pillaging and destroying the farm-houses and barns in the neighbourhood of Fort-George.

\* App. No. 1.

These atrocities were represented to major. general Vincent, and he was strongly urged to allow a small regular and Indian force to be marched against general McClure.. Colonel Murray finally gained his point ; and, taking with him 379 rank and file of the 100th regi. ment, abOut '20 volunteers, and 70 of the western Indians, led by colonel Elliot, moved forward on the road towards the Forty-mile Creek ; beyond which point he had been ordered not to proceed. The advance of this small detachment soon reached the ears of general McClure, who had taken post at the Twenty-mile Creek, and who now retreated, in haste, to a position somewhat nearer to Fort-George. Colonel Murray obtained fresh permission to extend his march to the Twenty-mile Creek, and subsequently to the Twelve-mile Creek. These movements had driven the American general and his men to Fort-George ; and then commenced a scene of devastation and horror, of which no adequate idea can be formed, except by such as had the misery to be spectators. How, then, shall we hope to succeed in describing it ?

The winter of 1813, according to general Wilkinson, set in earlier than usual. Lambert, in his account of the climate of Lower Canada, says that Fahrenheit's thermometer is sometimes 36 degrees below 0, and that the mean of the

cold in winter is about 0.\* The climate of Upper, is certainly not quite so rigorous as that of Lower Canada ; but yet the mildest winter of the former, bears no comparison whatever to the severest winter of this country. For several days previous to the 10th of December, the weather in Upper Canada had been unusually severe, and a deep snow lay on the ground. Towards night-fall on that day, general M'Clure gave about half an hour's notice to the inhabitants of Newarksthat he should burn down their village. Few of the poor people believed that the wretch was in earnest. Soon, however, came round the merciless firemen. Out of the 150 houses of which Newark had consisted, 149 were levelled to the dust ! Such articles of furniture and other valuables as the incendiaries could not, and the inhabitants had neglected or been unable to, carry away, shared.the general fate. Of counsellor Dickson's library, which had cost him between 5 and 6001. sterling, scarcely a book escaped the ravages of the devouring element. Mr. Dickson was, at this time, a prisoner in the enemy's territory ; and his wife lay on a sick bed. The Villains—how shall we proceed ?—took up the poor lady, bed and all, and placed her upon the snow before her own door ; where, shivering with cold, she beheld, if she could see at all,

\* Lambert'\* Travels, Vol. I. p. 107.

her house and all that was in it consumed to ashes. • Upwards of 400 helpless women and children, without provisions, and in some instances with scarcely cloaths upon their backs, were thus compelled, after being the mournful spectators of the destruction of their habitations, to seek shelter at a distance ; and that in such a night, too !--The reader's imagination must supply the rest.

In what way will the American historian, or will he at all, describe the conflagration of Newark ? Not one word about it appears in 'doctor Smith's book. Mr. Thomson says briefly : " General M'Clure determined on destroying the town of Newark." It is Mr. O'Connor whom we have to thank, for being explicit upon this point. " As a measure deemed necessary, to the safety of the troops, the town of Newark was burned. This act,' said general M'Clure, (proceeds Mr. O'Connor) however distressing to the inhabitants and my feelings, was *by order of the secretary of war*, and I believe, at the same time, proper.' The inhabitants, (continues Mr. O'Connor,) had 12 hours' notice to remove their effects, and such as chose to cross I he river were provided with all the necessaries of life."t

With the knowledge that Mr. Secretary Armstrong had recently been in the neighbourhood of, if not at Fort-George, we can readily sup-

\* Sketches of the War, p. 188.      † Hist. of the War, p. 158.

pose general M'Clure acted, as he says, by the former's orders. This confers additional atrocity upon the offence ; but, on that head, we shall forbear comments. " Distressing to my feelings :"—was not some such language used by captain David Porter, of the American navy, after he and his crew had been massacring the natives of the small island of Nooaheevah, which he had unfortunately visited during his celebrated cruize to the Pacific ?\* As to the " twelve hours' notice," the liberty to " cross the river," and the promise that the poor people should be " provided with all the necessaries of life," we give Mr. O'Connor himself credit for the whole ; and can only attribute his not having come forward with a better excuse, to a sudden qualm of conscience, • or perhaps to a momentary torpor in those inventive faculties on most other occasions so serviceable to him.

The nearer colonel Murray approached to the neighbourhood of Fort-George, the louder were the complaints of the people against the " lawless banditti" by whom they had been oppressed. That active officer immediately wrote to general Vincent ; and, anticipating the answer he should receive, dashed forward to Fort-George. General M'Clure's scouts gave him timely intelligence of the approach of the British ; and the cowardly wretch, with the whole of his minions,

\* Quart. Review, Vol. XIII. p. 364-9.

abandoned Fort George, and fled across the river. Not the slightest opposition did he make ; although the fortifications had been so much strengthened, since the capture of the fort in the preceding May, that the American commander, with only half the force he possessed, might have maintained a regular siege. He was in too much haste to destroy the whole of his magazines, or even to remove his tents; of which a sufficiency for 1500 men were left standing. Colonel Murray, in his first letter, states that general M'Clure had passed over his cannon, as well as stores.\* But, in a second letter, he mentions that one 18, four 12, and several 9-pounders, together with a large supply of shot, were found in the ditch. Even the destruction of the *new* barracks, which we had recently erected on the Niagara, was not deemed, by Mr. Armstrong and general M'Clure, so " necessary. in the military operations there," as Mr. Munro has since declared the burning of Newark to have been : consequently, the former were allowed to remain untouched. The indignant feelings of the soldiers, as they beheld the smoking ruins of what was once, as acknowledged by all, a beautiful and flourishing town, would have burst with a heavy vengeance upon the heads of the American general and his troops, had they not followed up their atrocious conduct by a precipitate flight.

\* App. go. IL

Mr. O'Connor informs us that " a council of war," that fatal damper of American military ardor, decided that Fort-George " was not tenable." Of the guns, or the fortifications, lie says nothing. Mr. Thomson concurs in opinion that the post was untenable ;" and gives as a reason, that the British force outside consisted of .1500 regulars, and at least 700 Indians ;" calls general M'Clure's troops " the remnant of an army ;" and then informs us, that the American general " determined on destroying the batteries ;" leaving to doctor Smith to advance the next step ; who, as if to confirm his predecessor's discernment, says roundly " Fort-George was soon afterwards abandoned, and blown up, by general M'Clure." +,

Early in November lieutenant-general Drummond and major-general Rial had arrived from England ; the former to relieve major-general De Rottenburg, in the military command and presidency of the upper province. These officers had been detained below, to see the end of general Wilkinson's expedition. That business concluded, they moved on to Kingston and York ; at which latter place general Drummond was sworn into office ; and then, along with major-general Rial, hastened to join the centre division of the army. Both generals arrived at St. David's, major-general Vincent's present

\* Sketches of the War, p. 18g.' + History of the War, p. 265.

head-quarterS, soon after the capture of Fort George ;. and at. a time when colonel Murray's prompt and decisive measures had given a new aspect to affairs..

This officer contemplated a retaliatory attack upon the opposite lines ; to which plan general Drummond yielded, not only his approbation, but, rightly judging that the delay of waiting for permission from the commander-in-chief, then at Quebec,\* might recover the enemy from his panic, and thus defeat the object,—his immediate sanction. No more than two batteaux were on the Niagara shore, the remainder were in Burlington Bay. Captain Kerby, an active militia-officer, under the orders of captain Elliott, the deputy assistant-quarter-master-general, contrived, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, and the badness of the roads, to effect the carriage, by land, of a sufficiency of batteaux for the enterprise.

Every thing being prepared by the evening of the 18th, the troops destined for the assault, consisting of a small detachment of royal artillery, the grenadiers of the royal Scots, the flank companies of the 41st, and the effective men of the 100th regiment, amounting, altogether, to fewer than 550 rank and file, and commanded by colonel Murray, crossed the river on that night, and landed at the Five-mile Meadows, about

\* Distant 530 miles.

+ 2d Battalion which had recently arrived from Europe.

three miles above Fort-Niagara. At about four o'clock the troops commenced their march ; and the advance, consisting of the grenadiers of the 100th regiment, and a small party of the royal artillery, succeeded in cutting off two of the enemy's pickets ; as well as in surprising the sentries on the glacis, and at the gate, by which means the watch-word was obtained, and the entrance into the fort greatly facilitated. While three companies of the 100th, under captain Martin, stormed the eastern demi-bastion, five companies of the same regiment, under colonel Murray in person, assisted by lieutenant-colonel Hamilton of the 100th, entered the fort by the main gate, which had been left open for the return of the guard from relieving sentries. The American main guard now rushed out of the south-east block-house, and fired a volley or two ; and some musketry was fired from another stone building within the fort ; but the bayonet overpowered all resistance, and the British union, in a few seconds more, waived triumphantly upon the stone-tower of Fort-Niagara.

The number of prisoners taken, including two officers and 12 rank and file wounded, amounted to one captain, nine lieutenants, two ensigns, one surgeon, one commissary, 12 sergeants, and 318 rank and file. Add to this number 65 in killed, \* and " about 20 that effected their escape," and we have 429 for the

\* Appendix No. 3.

garrison of Fort-Niagara. Upon the different defences were mounted no fewer than 27 pieces of ordnance; and, among them, some 32-pound carronades. The arsenal contained upwards of 3000 stands of arms, and many rifles. The ordnance and commissariat stores were immense ; and so was the quantity of army-clothing and camp-equipage. A portion of the articles consisted, no doubt, of such as general IVI'Clure, in his flight, had brought across from Fort-George. Had the garrison afforded an opportunity for a greater display of gallantry on the part of the assailants, the capture of Fort-Niagara, a post by far the strongest of any on the inland frontiers, would have been a still more brilliant achievement : it was no slight consolation, however, that we managed the business with the trifling loss of six men killed, and five wounded; including the gallant projector and commander of the enterprize, colonel Murray, severely *in* the wrist. Nor is it without feelings of exultation, that we compare the number of British sent against Fort-Niagara, with the number of Americans,—covered too by the fire from a fleet of ships, and from that same fort,—sent against Fort-George,\* so much its inferior in point of strength and armament.

The deputy incendiary M'Clure, with well-grounded apprehension of British vengeance, had, since the very day of his crossing from Fort-

\* See Vol. I. p. 153.

George, ordered the commandant of Fort-Niagara to prepare to defend the post, and be ready with "a proportion of hand-grenades in the different block-houses."\* He did not consider the disaster as "attributable to any want of troops, but to gross neglect in the commanding officer of the fort, captain Leonard, in not preparing, being ready, and looking out for, the expected attack." t General M'Clure describes the British that captured Fort-Niagara, as of "great force," and as consisting of regulars and " Indians;" although not an Indian was at the attack; for even the "Indian chief," Norton, who was present, is a Scotchman. The official letter then states that, on entering the fort, we "commenced a most horrid slaughter." This is utterly false, as respects the implication intended. The piquets and sentries, as in all cases of assault or surprise, were bayoneted; and so were those within the fort who made any resistance. The fort was entered in darkness, and a formidable opposition expected; particularly as general M'Clure had himself been boasting, that the block-houses and defences within-side, aided by the 32-pounder and other carronades, which were so mounted as, if necessary, to be fired inwards, would enable a small garrison to drive out or destroy 1500 British. No musket whatever was discharged by the latter; nor, from the moment that the soldiers could he

\* App. No.5.

t ibid, No. 4.

certain 'of all resistance having ceased, was a, single bayonet employed.

Mr. O'Connor describes the assaulting party: as "regulars, militia, and Indians, to the number, by the most probable account, of 1500 men," who, he says, entered the fort while the men were nearly all asleep "killing, without mercy or discrimination, those who came in their way."\*, Doctor Smith considers the capture of Fort: Niagara to be a sore subject; therefore merely-states that, in the month of *January*, it "was surprised and captured." Mr. Thomson begins his account by stating, that the fort was "garrisoned by 324 sick and effective men"; although we took, as prisoners, 20 more than that number, exclusive of those that had escaped and been killed. He proceeds :"At 4 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, the enemy, 400 in number, crossed the Niagara, under colonel Murray, and approached : -the principat gate which was then open."—We find no "*Errata*" referred to in Mr. Thomson's book, but must consider that the printer has made "400" of what was intended for "1400."—This editor caught by the word .. Indians" in the official letter, then says : ." Accompanied by his Indian warriors, he rushed furiously in upon the garrison. " " On entering the garrison, " continues Mr. Thomson, " colonel Murray

\* History of the War, p. 159.

received a wound in the arm ; after which he yielded the command to colonel Hamilton,—under whose superintendance, the women of the garrison were stripped of their clothing, and many of them killed, and the persons of the dead officers treated with shocking indignity."\* —Never was so base a falsehood ! But who, out of the United States, will believe this pettifogging scribbler's story ? and as to those in the United States who may do so, they are too insignificant, we are sure, to give the gallant colonel the slightest uneasiness.

Among the valuables found in Fort-Niagara, were eight respectable Canadian inhabitants; who, in direct violation of civilized warfare, had been taken from their peaceful dwellings to be immured within the walls of a prison. That no doubt may remain of the fact, we here present the reader with the names of six out of the eight individuals, who were thus so happily released from bondage. The names are : Thomas Dickon, Samuel Street, and J. M. Cawdle, esquires ; Messrs. John Tompson, John Macfarlane, and Peter M'Micking ; the latter 80 years of age.

On the same morning on which Fort-Niagara was carried, major-general Rial, taking with him detachments from the royal Scots and 41st regiments, amounting to about 500 rank and file, crossed over to Lewistown About 500

\* Sketches of the War, p. 180 ; and *third edition!*

Indian warriors had preceded this force, and had a skirmish with, and' completely routed, a detachment of American militia, under a major Bennett ; in which affair the latter lost eight' men killed. • 'NO sooner had the Americans aban doned Lewistown, than the Indians commenced'. setting fire to it. Major-general Rita, who' found no enemy to contend with, took possession of a 12 and '6-pOunder gun, with travelling carriages, and every thing 'complete ; also a considerable quantity of small arms, some ammu-nition, nine barrels of powder, and about 200 barrels of flour.. The small villages of Youngs-town, Manchester, and the Indian Tuscarora, as soon as the inhabitants had deserted them, shared the fate of Lewistown.

There is no doubt that the Indians committed many enormities ; but who could have told Mr. M'Clure,—himself the origin of all that hap-pened,—that the savages were " headed by British officers painted." ? Mr. O'Connor is the only one of our three editors who has repeated this story. A. ajor-general Rial and his troops' passed on to Fort-Schlosser ;\* which place' they. destroyed : they then proceeded as far as Tone-wanto Creek, \* which is within 10 miles of Buffaloe ; but, finding the bridge broken, re-turned, and crossed over to Queenstown.

The exposed state of the American Niagara-

\* See Plate I.

frontier began to excite serious alarm ; and general McClure, too dastardly to meet in the field the avengers of the conflagration of Newark, had requested major-general Hall to take the command of the regulars and militia, then assembling from all parts, to repel any further encroachments. On the morning of the 23d the major-general fixed his head-quarters at Batavia, a village about 40 miles from Buffaloe. On the morning of the 29th we find him at Buffaloe, reviewing his troops ; which then amounted to 2011 men, but were afterwards, it appears, considerably reduced by desertion.\*

On the 28th lieutenant-general Drummond took up his head-quarters at Chippeway ; and, on the next day, within two miles of Fort-Erie. Having reconnoitred the enemy's position at Black Rock, the lieutenant-general determined to attack him. Accordingly, on the night of the 30th, major-general Rial, having under his command four companies of the 8th, 250 men of the 41st, the light company of the 89th, and the grenadiers of the 100th, regiments, numbering, with 50 volunteer-militia, about 590 rank and file, also a body of Indian warriors, not exceeding 120, crossed the Niagara, and landed, without opposition, about two miles below Black Rock. The light-company of the 89th advanced along the road, and secured an

\* Mist. of the War, p. 161.

American piquet, as well as the bridge over the Conjuichity,\* or Schojeoquady,t the boards of which had already been loosened, preparatory to their removal. The 250 men of the 41st, and the grenadiers of the 100th, were joined to the light-company of the 89th t' and the whole, amounting to about 400 rank and file, in order to secure the passage of the bridge, took up a position, a short distance beyond it, at a place called the Sailor's battery. In the course of the night several attempts were made by general Hall's militia to dislodge the British from their position ; but, " owing to the darkness of the night, and the confusion into which the militia were thrown by the enemy's fire,"\* every attempt failed.

At day-dawn on the 31st, the royal Scots, about 800 strong, along with a detachment of the 19th dragoons, the whole commanded by lieutenant-colonel Gordon, of the royals, crossed over to land above Black Rock, for the purpose of turning the enemy's position, while major-general Rial's force should attack him from below. Unfortunately, owing to some error in the pilots, several of the boats grounded ; and became, in consequence, exposed to a heavy and destructive fire from one 6, one 24, and two 12-pounders; at the Black Rock battery, and from about 600 men t drawn up on the beach,

\*App No. 6.    t See Plate I.    t Mist. of the War, p. 161.

flanked by a number of Indians. The gallant royals, thus sitting in their grounded boats, to be shot at like targets, lost 13 rank and file, killed, and three serjeants, and 29 rank and file wounded. „Fortunately, a few well-directed shots from five field-pieces stationed on the opposite shore, and the near approach of major-general Rial's force upon the,, enemy's right, caused a favorable diversion.

By this time a considerable force of militia, certainly not fewer than 1300, had assembled in the town ; but, after a short resistance, the Americans abandoned Black Rock and its batteries, and fled towards Buffaloe, about 2-1- miles distant, To this town they were followed, in close pursuit ; and, although protected by a field-piece posted on a height that commanded the road, made but a slight resistance, ere they fled in all directions to the neighbouring woods.

The British captured at these two posts eight pieces of ordnance, including a 2.1 and 18-pounder. For want of adequate means of conveyance the public stores, consisting of considerable quantities of clothing, spirits, and flour, were obliged to be destroyed. All the inhabitants having left, Black Rock and Buffaloe, the two villages shared the fate of Newark. The United States' vessels Chippeway, Little Belt, and Trippe, were found aground near Buffaloe Creek ; and, along with their stores, were ,also committed to the flames,

This fact is scarcely noticed by the American editors ; although the smallest of these three vessels, when captured from us a short time previous,\* was, with the utmost gravity, styled, —" His Britannic majesty's schooner Chippeway."<sup>1</sup> The British loss on this occasion, including that of the royal Scots already given, amounted to 31 killed, 72 wounded, and nine missing. The American loss does not appear ; except where general Hall states, that " many valuables were lost. t. Owing to the nimbleness of the American militia, and the contiguity of the woods, only 130 prisoners were made ; among whom was the notorious colonel, or doctor Chapin. Major-general Hall himself, \_••with nearly 300 of the most pursy of his soldiers, brought up at the Eleven-mile Creek, about three miles from Buffaloe.

The nine *missing* of our troops were some careless fellows who had strayed to the margin of the village, and were captured on the 1st of January, by an American scouting party, headed by a captain Stone. Two officers of this detachment were surprised, while on horseback, by a patrol of the 19th light dragoons, and one, " lieutenant Totman, of the Canadian volunteers," was shot. Mr. Thomson declares, that

James's Naval Occurrences, p. 286.

t Nay. Mist. of the. United States, Vol. **II** p. 242.

App. No. 7. -

## MILITARY OCCURRENCES BETWEEN

lieutenants Riddle and Totman " would bare given themselves up, but for the treatment which other prisoners on the Niagara had recently received."\* These American editors are never at a loss. The fact is, Mr. Tottnan was like his friend Nlr. Wilcocks, an Irishman, and an inhabitant of Upper Canada, where he had resided many years. With a halter thus before his eyes, lie had a much more powerful inducement than-is alleged by Mr. Thomson, for not delivering himself up to the British.

v Mr. Thomson is very loud in his complaints against the " timid militia," assembled at Buf-faloe and Black. Rock.<sup>4</sup> -Nor' is he so without reason ; for, in proof of the ,i.numerous population in and around those villages, we find it stated by a writer from Batavia, under date of December the 23d, that 5000 men could be assembled in 14 hours: nay, Mr. O'Connor himself fixes the number of sufferers, by the conflagration, alone, at " 12000 persons." t Nor does this number include such as resided even a short distance beyond the narrow slip of land, which was the scene of the British incursion. It was not a week after the pusillanimous behaviour of the American militia upon this frontier, that Mr. Wright, member of congress for Maryland, in a speech which was to prove, that the army of

\* Sketches of the War, p. 192.

t Dist. of the War, p. 164;

## 'GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

the United States had " been marvellously successful," said thus : " There was no evidence against the courage or conduct of our army ; which had displayed, not Roman but *American* valor: so conspicuous, indeed, had been the courage displayed, by both our army and navy, that he hoped whoever should hereafter speak of Roman valor, on this floor, would be considered as speaking of the second degree, and not of the first."\* As far as any thing appears on the minutes of this day's debates, Mr. Wright's language caused no unusual sensation in the house.

After the American Niagara frontier had thus suffered a just retribution for the conduct of the American government along the shores of Upper Canada, the British troops, under major-general Rial, evacuated the whole of the territory of the United States, except Fort-Niagara, at which a .small garrison was stationed ; and the centre-division of the army of Upper Canada, consisting now of about 2500 rank and file, retired into peaceable winter-quarters at Fort-Niagara, St. David's, Burlington Heights, and York. Mr. O'Connor, affer declaring that our proceedings had been marked " with the ferocity of the tiger, and the all-desolating ruin of the locust," adds : •" On the 4th of January the robbers retired into their own woods ; not daring

\* Proceedings of Congress, January 6, 1814.

to wait the chastisement that was preparing for them." He next furnishes us with a piece of useful information. " The enemy," says he, " having declared their conduct on the Niagara frontier to have been committed in retaliation for excesses *said to* have been committed by the American armies in Canada, the censure, or rather indignation, of the suffering inhabitants was turned against general McClure, who had the command. The general, previous to retiring from command, published an address to the public, in justification of his own conduct, in which he seems to have been pretty successful." His *success* did not, at all events, reach to the security of his person ; for he was compelled, for a long while, to have a strong guard of regular troops stationed before his door, in order to restrain the justly enraged population from treating him as he deserved.

In the harbor at Erie, distant 91 miles from Bnffaloe, were lying, the ships, brigs, and larger schooners of the American fleet ; nor could they seek safety upon the lake, on account of the ice that surrounded them. The Americans, having good reason to fear an attack upon, had, by collecting troops and cutting away the ice from the sides of the vessels, made every arrangement for the security of this important depot. After the incompetency of the American militia to

\* History of the War, p. 164.

+ See p. 49.

defend the post; had, however, been so well proved, we presume it was the known unbearable state of the ice, and not any special orders from Quebec, that restrained major-general Rial from attempting to carry into effect so desirable an object.

Having now brought to a close the campaign of 1813, against the British provinces ; we will borrow an American editor's remarks upon the subject. " Though," says Mr. Thomson, " the American arms had attained a high degree of reputation, no one advantage was obtained, to atone for the blood and treasure which had already been exhausted. The capital of Upper Canada had been taken. It was scarcely captured, before it was abandoned. The bulwark of the province, Fort-George, -had been gallantly carried ; but an inferior force was suffered to escape, after being beaten ; and the conquerors were soon after confined to the works of the garrison, and closely invested upwards of six months. The long contemplated attack upon Montreal was frustrated : Kingston still remained a safe and advantageous harbor, in the hands of the enemy ; and a fortress,\* which might have been long, and obstinately, and effectually defended, was yielded, with scarcely a struggle, and under circumstances mysterious in the extreme, to the retaliating invaders of the

\* Fort-Niagara.

American Niagara frontier. In the course of the summer oV 1813, th6 American army possessed every position between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, on both sides of the Niagara. In the winter of the same - year, after having gradually lost their possessions, on the British side of that stream, they were deprived of their possessions" on their own." If we may be allowed to leave out " gallantly" ; to substitute " without any" for " with scarcely a"; and to bestow a smile upon. the " high degree of reputation which the American arms had attained," we see no objection to Mr. Thomson's recapitulatory observations.

The circumstances that caused the surprising changes which he so naturally deplores, seem to have escaped his notice. " Had " the long contemplated attack upon Montreal" not been attempted, a comparatively large regular army of the United States could still have occupied the peninsula of Upper Canada ; and a M'Clure not been wanted, to prove himself the willing tool of Mr. Secretary Armstrong's atrocious purposes. had not Newark been set on tire, remorse would not have made cowards of M'Clure and his myrmidons ; nor would a just indignation have stimulated a small band of British to pursue and punish those guilty wretches ; many Of whose dwellings happily shared the fate of the

town which they had destroyed. Yet—mark the difference. The destruction along the American frontier was the work of an assaulting foe, glowing with wrath at the commission of injuries, unauthorized by the laws of war. It was an event which the inhabitants themselves had, for the last eight days, been expecting ; an event, therefore, which they, by removing their property, and, in many instances, themselves, from the spot, did but partially feel. The burning of Newark, on the other hand, was the deliberate act of an enemy, who had been six months in quiet possession of the country ; and who had received no provocation whatever from the inhabitants,—" the innocent, unfortunate, and distressed inhabitants," as M'Clure himself had styled them ; and that too in the very proclamation, wherein he pledged himself to protect them. Warning the poor people had none ; unless half an hour or so may be called by that name : nor even day-light, to enable them to see to collect their little cloaths and property, and to seek another habitation, in the room of that they had for ever lost. Poor Mrs. Dickson, too !- Who, then, will deny that the wanton conflagration of Newark still remains unatoned for '

\* Sketehet of the War, p. 193.