

charged with this service, every thing that could be done might be expected ; and that the progress made this season would doubtless secure for the next their naval ascendancy, where, as Mr. Madison remarks, it was essential to a permanent peace and control over the savages.

"Among the incidents," says Mr. Madison in his message, "to the measures of the war, I am constrained to advert to the refusal of the governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut, to furnish the required detachments of militia towards the defence of the maritime frontier. The refusal was founded on a novel and unfortunate exposition of the provisions of the constitution relating to the militia. It is obvious," says he, "that if the authority of the United States to call into service and command the militia, for the public defence, can be thus frustrated, even in a state of declared war, and of course under apprehensions of invasion preceding war, they are not *one* nation for the purpose most of all requiring it ; and that the public may have no other resource than in those large and permanent military establishments which are forbidden by the principles of a free government, and against the necessity of which the militia were intended as a constitutional bulwark."

The president next adverts to the affairs on the ocean, which he represents to have been as favorable to the arms of the United States as circumstances inseparable from its early stages could well permit them to expect. "Our public ships," says he, "and private cruisers by their activity and, where there was occasion, by their intrepidity, have made the enemy sensible of the difference between a reciprocity of captures and the long confinement of them to their side.

"Our trade," continues Mr. Madison, "with little exception, has safely reached our ports; having been much favored in it by the course pursued by a squadron

of our frigates under the command of Commodore Rogers." Here the American president indulges himself in the most extravagant eulogiums on the skill and bravery of the American navy, seemingly, in his view, transcending any thing that had hitherto appeared on the face of the ocean.

He next refers to the correspondence between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Russel, for arresting the progress of the war ; and, after briefly recapitulating the topics discussed by those two functionaries, recommends it as unwise to relax the measures adopted for the prosecution of the war, on the mere presumption of Great Britain giving a favorable reception to the terms of conciliation which they had last submitted for the consideration of that government.

Mr. Madison next takes a cursory review of the relations subsisting between America and the other European powers and the Barbary States ; and represents them, notwithstanding the rupture with Great Britain, as nothing impaired, with the exception of Algiers, the regency of which had suddenly banished their consul general ; but whether from the transitory effect of capricious despotism or the first act of predetermined hostility, had not been ascertained ; but precautions had been taken by the consul on the latter supposition.

With a view to a vigorous prosecution of the war, he called for the particular attention of congress to the insufficiency of the present provisions for filling up the regular army. "Such," says Mr. Madison, "is the happy condition of our country, arising from the facility for subsistence and the high wages for every species of occupation, that, notwithstanding the augmented inducements provided at the last session, a partial success only has attended the recruiting service—the deficiency has been supplied, during the campaign, by other than regular troops, with all the inconveniencies and expenses

incident to them. The remedy," says Mr. Madison, "lies in establishing, more favorably for the private soldier, the proportion between his recompense and the term of enlistment." The president, therefore, recommended this as a subject highly deserving of their earliest and most serious consideration.

Mr. Madison next recommends, as a subject demanding the earliest attention of Congress, an increase of the number of general officers of the United States army, and the importance of rendering more distinct and definite the different relations and responsibilities of the various departments of the staff establishments, and a revision of the militia laws of the Union. Of the additional ships authorised to be fitted for service, two would be shortly ready to sail ; and no delay possible of being avoided, would be allowed in fitting out the residue.

As regarded the financial affairs of the nation, Mr. Madison announced that the receipts into the public treasury for the year ending on the 30th September last, had exceeded sixteen and a half millions of dollars; which had been sufficient to defray all the demands of the treasury to that day, including a necessary reimbursement of nearly three millions of the principal of the public debt ; a part of the receipts, however, was a sum of nearly five millions, eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars received into the treasury on account of loans which had been contracted for, under the authority of acts of the last session.

To deny that the country had its difficulties to contend with, although it richly abounded in the most animating considerations, were folly, as every day's experience taught a different lesson. With more than one nation they had serious and unsettled controversies ; and with one nation, powerful in the means and habits of war,

they were now at war. The spirit and strength of the nation were, nevertheless, equal to the support of all its rights, and to carry it through all its trials.

Above all, they had the consolation of knowing that the war in which they were then engaged was not a war either of ambition or vain glory ; that it was waged, not in violation of the rights of others, but in the maintenance of their own ; that it was preceded (says the president,) by a patience without example, under wrongs accumulating without end ; and that it was, finally, not declared until every hope of averting it was extinguished by the transfer of the British sceptre into new hands clinging to former councils ; and until declarations were reiterated to the last hour, through the British envoy here, that the hostile edicts against the commercial rights of the nation, and against its maritime independence, would not be revoked—nay, that they could not be revoked, without violating the obligations of Great Britain to other powers as well as to her own interests.

"To have shrunk, under such circumstances, from manly resistance, would have been a degradation blasting the best and proudest hopes of the nation ; and would have struck it from the high rank where the virtuous struggles of the heroes of the Revolution had placed it ; and would have been, on our part, a base betrayal of the magnificent legacy which we held in trust for future generations. It would have acknowledged, that on the element which forms three fourths of the globe we inhabit, and where all independent nations have equal and common rights, the American people were not an independent people, but colonists and vassals.

" It was at this moment, and with such an alternative, that war was chosen. The nation felt the necessity of it, and called for it. The appeal was accordingly made in a just cause, to the just and all powerful Being who holds in his hand the chair. of events and the destiny of nations."

CHAPTER XXI.

Extract from the Speech of the Prince Regent of Great Britain, to both Houses of Parliament—Review of that Speech by the Margris Wellesley, in the House of Lords—Speech from the Throne reviewed in the House of Commons, by Mr. Canning—Remarks

THE foregoing is the view of the war *taken* by Mr. Madison, at the close of the first year's campaign ; and, on the last day of the same month in which the message was delivered, of which the preceding is a recapitulation as far as relates to this subject, the parliament of Great Britain was convened, to whom the Prince Regent delivered an address from which the following is extracted :

"The declaration of war by the government of the United States of America, was made under circumstances which might have offered a reasonable expectation that the amicable relations between the two nations would not be long interrupted. It is with sincere regret that I am obliged to acquaint you, that the conduct and pretensions of that government have hitherto prevented the conclusion of any pacific arrangement. Their measures of hostility have been directed against the adjoining provinces, and every effort has been made to seduce the inhabitants of them from their allegiance to *His* Majesty.

"The proofs, however, which I have received of loyalty and attachment, from His Majesty's subjects in North America, are highly satisfactory. The attempts of the enemy, to invade Upper Canada, have not only proved abortive, but, by the judicious arrangements of the governor-general, and by the skill and decision with which the military operations have been conducted, the

forces of the enemy assembled for that purpose in one quarter have **been** compelled to capitulate, and in another have been completely defeated.

" My best efforts are not wanting for the restoration of peace and amity between the two countries ; but until this object can be obtained without sacrificing the maritime rights of Great Britain, I shall rely upon your cordial support in a vigorous prosecution of the war."

In the House of Lords, the Marquis Wellesley took an able view of the speech from the throne ; and, in adverting **to** the war with America, he said, that " no **attack could be** more unjustifiable than that made by America, **and** that no cause could be more righteous than that of Great Britain."

He denied that the Orders in Council **was** the cause of this war. " No," said he, " it was upon far different things—it was upon high and mighty interests of the British empire—interests which we could not move without throwing the trident of the ocean into the hands of America. America," said he, " was not to be soothed and fondled into peace—the heads of the government had long been influenced by a deadly hatred to this country, and (unusual as the epithet was,) by a deadly love to France.

"Our policy was plain : our wisest, nay, our most pacific measures would be, to show ourselves ready for the emergency—to present in front of America a force which would make her feel her danger, and feel the importance of purchasing her safety by peace. What had we done ? Nothing to intimidate—nothing to punish—nothing to interest her weakness or her wisdom. If there were any hope of putting a speedy end to the war, it was to be accomplished by boldness and decision,

by making the effort while it was still in our power, and by turning upon that war some part of the grand and superabundant strength of our country."

In the House of Commons, Mr. Canning, in reviewing the Prince Regent's address as far as related to the war, said that " it was his sincere and anxious wish, that two nations so related to each other by consanguinity, by one common language and by mutual interests, as Great Britain and America, should not only be in alliance, but, when disputes ran to so great an extent, when once the die was cast and hostilities had commenced, it became this country to be more prompt, by every exertion in our power, to bring the struggle of war to a speedy conclusion. He would go to the extremest verge of forbearance **to** keep peace ; but he would not dilute his war measures into a weak and sickly regimen, unfit for the vigor of the occasion. He would not convert the acute distemper of war into a chronic distemper, and incorporate it with the system.

" The present dispute had grown up with petty profits and small gains, till at last actual war was fixed upon us. Two years ago to have prophesied that, after six months, open war between England and America—America should boast the only naval trophy, and that we could only say that we had not been conquered !—an Englishman would have resented such a prophecy as an insult. He could not consider our military success in America as matter of great triumph. He never supposed we should be conquered by America. He never could have thought the mighty navy of Great Britain would have slept while her commerce was swept from the seas ; and that, at the end of six months, we should be found proclaiming a speech from the throne, that the time had, at length, come to be active and energetic, and to show England and the world that England is what England was—never, that we should send our ambassador, with our own ships, to our own North

American towns, and attack the American ports with our flags of truce. There, however, might remain circumstances, yet to be disclosed, to account for this ; but he would say, that on the first appearance and on the declaration of war, there was evidently a studied determination to postpone the period of accommodation.

"As for the desire of America to get possession of Canada, it was a project which he thought not likely to be frowned upon severely, even by those parties in America which were considered friendly to us. When urged upon the subject, I know that ministers will reply, that their motives for clinging, to the last, to conciliation were two-fold. First, that they had friends in the United States ; second, that before we venture on hostilities we ought to take care that we are indisputably in the right. In both these points I concur; for I have ever thought that the most splendid victories which ever glittered on the page of history were tarnished and obscured *if justice did not hallow the cause* in which they were achieved. I admit that it is also right to temper your conduct by a consideration of the party that favors your cause in the hostile state. In regard to the United States, this rule ought to be observed ; and we ought to pay attention to those who were called good Englishmen—not meaning to deny that they are good Americans, but who held the opinion that an alliance with England is preferable to a treaty with France. But are we quite sure that, by this system of mitigated hostility, we are not playing the game of the party opposed to us, and defeating the efforts of our friends ? I cannot help thinking that we injure our own cause by this dubious pusillanimity."

From the foregoing extracts from the two state papers of Great Britain and America, and the review taken in parliament of *the* Prince Regent's Address, it would appear that both the belligerents accused the adverse party of the original causes of the war, and held it

responsible for its continuance ; but it will be left to an impartial posterity, when the rancorous feelings which have been excited shall be no longer recollected, to say to which of the nations the blame was imputable.

America As a neutral nation, before the commencement of the war, certainly exercised a great deal of partiality towards France, while her conduct towards Great Britain was extremely hostile. It was permitted to public armed vessels of France to capture British vessels at the mouths of American harbors, (where they had just taken in valuable cargoes and paid all the requisite duties,) and return them into the same port and sell them as legal prizes ; while British vessels had not the common protection of a neutral harbor in any part of the United States.

With respect to the British Orders in Council, of which America had so long and so grievously complained, it has been clearly shown in a former part of this work, that the government of Great Britain, in passing those edicts, was guided by a strict sense of honor towards America, as *a neutral nation*•.

But, in order to conciliate America, as it was evident a malignant spirit had long existed in that country towards the British government, though the whole Union was by no means infected, the Orders in Council were repealed,

*See page 27 on this subject.

tWhereas the president, in his message to congress, has *made* known to the people of the United States, that the British Orders in Council have been repealed, " in such manner as to be capable

but without the slightest effect in allaying the hostile spirit already manifested.

of explanations meeting the views of the government" of the United States ; and therefore none of the alleged causes of war with Great Britain now remain, except the claim of the right to take British subjects from the merchant ships of the United States—

And whereas, during the Administration of President Washington and President Adams, this claim of Great Britain was not considered as a reasonable cause of war ; and under the administration of President Jefferson, the government of Great Britain did offer to make an arrangement with the United States, which, in the opinion of Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney, their ministers placed this subject on a ground that was both honorable and advantageous to the United States, and highly favorable to their interests ; and was, at the same time, a concession which had never before been made ; and it is highly probable that the government of Great Britain would still be willing to make an arrangement on this subject, which should be alike honorable and advantageous to the United States—

And whereas, under the administration of President Madison, when the arrangement of the matters in controversy between the United States and Great Britain was made with His Britannic Majesty's minister, David Montague Erskine, Esquire, the impressment of seamen was not considered of sufficient importance to make a condition of that arrangement—

And whereas all the European powers, as well as the United States, recognize the principle that their subjects have no right to expatriate themselves, and that the nation has a right to the service (a of all its citizens, especially in time of war; and none of those powers respect the neutralization laws of others so far as to admit their operation in contravention of that principle—and it is manifestly unjust for a neutral power to make war upon one nation, in order to compel it to relinquish a principle which is maintained by the others—&c.

Extract of a Preamble and Order adopted by the Legislature of Massachusetts, 5th February, 1813-

The law of nations has determined the boundaries of the right of blockade : that is therefore a question which of course admitted of no doubt ; and on the question of Great Britain reclaiming her own subjects, her right had never been doubted, and any further silt; never yet claimed; but even made overtures to suspend hostilities, in order to negotiate on the point: in dispute.

CHAPTER XXII.

A large American Force marched to the Frontiers of Upper and Lower Canada,--Movement of the Western Division of the American Army—General Winchester advances to the River Raisin—Colonel Proctor attacks General Winchester in the Village of French Town—Surrender of General Winchester with his whole Force—Affair at Ogdensburgh—Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald, of the Glengary Light Infantry, attacks that Post—The garrison completely routed—Review of the Conquest—Remarks

IN the close of the year 1812, it was manifest from the movements of the American army to the frontiers of Upper and Lower Canada, that on the opening of the campaign of 1813, a descent upon those colonies was menaced in earnest. Measures were therefore immediately adopted by Sir George Prevost, the governor general, for their defence ; but the small British force then occupying the Canadas, and the wide extent of frontier the British commander in chief had to defend, rendered it impossible, at any one spot, to cope with the enemy in point of numbers.

The American army, to whom was committed at this time *the honor of conquering Canada*, was divided into three divisions denominated, from the positions they had taken, the Army of the North, commanded by General Hampton, and stationed along the southern shore of Lake Champlain, on the south precincts of Lower Canada ; the second, the Army of the Centre, consisting of seven thousand effective men, which was again subdivided into two, commanded by Generals Dearborn and Wilkinson, were posted from Buffalo, at the Lower extremity of Lake Erie, to Sackett's Harbor at the Lower end of Lake Ontario; and the third, the

Army of the West, consisting of " eight thousand effective men*," commanded by Generals Harrison and Winchester, whose limits extended along the south shore of Lake Erie, from Buffalo westwardly as far as the British frontier extended.

The shameful and unlooked for surrender by General Hull of the whole Michigan Territory with all the regular and militia forces under his command, had so completely astounded the American government, that no effort had been made, up to this period, to recover their lost possessions by that surrender. The army under Generals Harrison and Winchester was therefore directed to that enterprise, after which it was to cooperate with the other two armies in the invasion of Canada.

General Winchester, certainly unadvisedly, advanced to the village of French Town on the River Raisin, about eighteen miles from Detroit, and about thirty-four miles from the rapids of the Miami, with the advance of the army consisting of "one thousand effective men," chiefly composed of the Kentucky volunteers. With this force General Winchester meditated an attack upon Detroit, with a view to force a capitulation, as a preliminary to the descent upon Upper Canada.

*American Account:

†General Harrison's Letter to Governor Meigs, dated, Headquarters, North Western Army, Rapids of the Miami, 13th June, 1813.

It may not be improper to remark that the number which General Winchester had under his command, at the River Raisin, is stated in British accounts to be eleven hundred.

"Too confident in the fears of the enemy/," for his own good, General Winchester very incautiously advanced too far. Colonel Proctor, to whom was committed the command of the British forces on that part of the lines, moved out with a body of regulars and militia consisting of five hundred and forty-seven, including officers and men, and about two hundred Indians, in order to dislodge General Winchester from his position. On the evening of the 21st of January, the enemy was first discovered, with his right wing lodged in the houses in the village, each of which was strongly defended by stockade work, and formed, as it were of itself, a little fort: his left wing had fortified themselves in the rear of a picket fence.

About daylight, on the morning of the 22d, the attack was commenced on the right wing of the American army, and such was the ardor and impetuosity displayed by the British forces employed in the attack, that, in fifteen or twenty minutes from the commencement, that wing was completely dislodged and driven across the river in disorder; but a body of Indians, that had been purposely posted in their rear, intercepted their retreat, and the whole was either killed or taken prisoners. Colonel Proctor followed up the attack upon the left wing; but, as their position was yet more strongly fortified and though strength more easily united, they were enabled to sustain an action of nearly an hour and a half, in which they received three or four successive charges; but finding themselves outflanked, and by their position which, in consequence of the nature of the ground, it was impossible to change, they were in danger of being enfiladed

Terms of capitulation were agreed upon, by which the whole of General Winchester's command that had

:American Account.

survived the fury of the battle were surrendered prisoners of war, amounting to upwards of six hundred*. In this sanguinary engagement, the loss of the Americans, in killed and wounded, was nearly five hundred; while that of the British was only twenty-four killed and one hundred and sixty-one wounded.

The next affair in succession occurred at Ogdensburg, a post on the American side of the River St. Lawrence, on the morning of the 22d February, 1813. The expedition, was undertaken, in pursuance of an order from Sir George Prevost, who had arrived at Prescott the day previous, with a view effectually to stop certain predal inroads of the enemy/.

About sunrise on the morning of the 22d, Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald, of the Glengary Fencible Light Infantry, with most of the Garrison of Prescott under his command, consisting of about five hundred men, composed of regulars, fencibles and militia, crossed the St. Lawrence, on the ice, which at this place is about a mile and a quarter in width. The British forces, under Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald, were divided into two wings, the right of which was commanded by Captain Jenkins of the Glengary Fencibles, and was ordered to attack the enemy's left, and, if necessary, to cut off his retreat. Capt. Jenkins moved on with his detachment

*Letter from General Harrison to Governor Wig., dated at Portage River, 29th January, 1813.

}Colonel Proctor's Despatches, dated 25th January, 1813.

:A horde of marauders, who for a length of time had made the village of Ogdensburg their chief place of resort, were in the continual habit, by their nocturnal predatory incursions, of infesting the peaceable and defenceless inhabitants within their reach, residing along the Canadian side of the River St. Lawrence, remotely situated from a military post.

to execute the orders he had received ; while Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald marched forward toward the enemy's batteries in the town. Both wings, but especially that under Captain Jenkins, while crossing the river, were exposed to a galling oblique fire from the American batteries ; and the snow being uncommonly deep on the ice, very materially obstructed their passage. The columns, however, advanced in the face of every opposition ; and that under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Mc. Donald, first gaining the American shore, proceeded to drive the enemy from his strong-holds.

The American troops, who were stationed on the banks to oppose the columns in their approach to the land, fled towards the works in confusion. The left wing then ascended the height, and under a heavy fire of artillery from the fort, drove a column of the enemy's infantry to the woods for shelter. Colonel Mc. Donald then proceeded to the first battery, which he carried at the point of the bayonet. Captain Eustace then, with a detachment of the same wing, made his way into the main fort, **in order to follow up** the success ; when he drove the enemy from the works, who left the fort in the utmost confusion, by an opposite sallyport, in pursuit of their companions, who had previously taken refuge in the woods.

About the same moment that Colonel Mc. Donald's division drove the enemy's infantry towards the fort, Captain Jenkins had made the shore, and with his division was charging a seven gun battery, covered by a body of infantry, two hundred strong, who maintained a galling fire upon him with musketry, while the battery continued to pour upon him the most tremendous showers of grape and canister.

At the very commencement of this charge, the brave Jenkins received a wound with a grape shot in his left arm, which literally shivered it in pieces ; still his courage

nothing abated, he continued to lead on his gallant followers to the assault, when he received a severe wound in his right arm ; yet with the most enthusiastic gallantry did he continue to advance at the head of his little band of Spartans, cheering them forward, until by the loss of blood and the increasing pain of his wounds, he fell in the snow completely exhausted. The command of the right wing then, devolved on Lieutenant Mc. Auley, of the same corps, who continued the charge upon the enemy's works ; but, for want of discipline, the militia were unable to maintain their order through the snow, and keep up with the more disciplined troops ; that division was, therefore, forced for a time to retire without effecting its purpose.

Sir George Prevost, in his despatches to Earl Bathurst, when detailing this affair, dwells emphatically on the gallantry and self devotion to the service of his king and country, of the brave Captain Jenkins, and earnestly recommends him to the peculiar favor and protection of His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent.

In this brilliant enterprise there was captured from the enemy a vast quantity of military and marine stores, together with eleven pieces of ordnance. Two schooners and two or three gun boats which were laid up in the harbor, with the military barracks, were all committed to the flames. About eighty prisoners, four or five of whom were officers, were also taken and marched to Prescott for further disposal.

Much has been said by American writers regarding the conduct of the combined forces at the affair of Frenchtown. They have not even stopped to charge British officers and soldiers with the most enormous cruelties, committed in conjunction with the Indians, when it was in their power to have prevented them. Such have been the contemptible misrepresentations to which many publications, otherwise deserving merit, have de-

scended, as well of this as many other affairs during the war ; and even amongst a few British subjects they have gained credence.

General Harrison, however, in writing his despatches to Governor Meigs, as well as several officers of his army who avail themselves of the General's express to write to their friends in Chilicothe, in most of their letters give the details of the battle, but seem to be ignorant as regards the greatest part of that "massacre" as it has been gravely termed. It is gathered from these despatches and letters by a Chilicothe Journal of the 2d February, 1813, that "those who surrendered themselves on the field of battle were taken prisoners by the British, while those who attempted to escape were pursued, tomahawked and scalped." Now, even this account, in part, is incorrect ; for the Indians, by whom they were assailed in the rear, were posted there for the express purpose of cutting off their retreat ; and those who surrendered to the Indians were safely conducted to the British camp ; but such was the panic with which these unfortunate fugitives were seized, that no persuasion on the part of the Indian chiefs, who were fully disposed to comply with the orders of General Proctor, could prevail on them to surrender until they were either wounded and taken, or overtaken in the chase by their pursuers, when no efforts of the chiefs could save them from their fury.

In a letter containing copies of despatches from General Harrison, dated 24th January, 1813, it is stated, "that when the attack commenced, General Winchester ordered a retreat, but, from the utter confusion which prevailed, this could not be effected ; and he then told them to take care every man for himself, and attempted to make his own escape on horseback, but was overtaken before he had gone a mile, by the Indians, *and killed and scalped. His body was cut up and mangled in a Mocking manner, and one of his hands cut off.*" Now,

here is an awful Indian tale, manufactured as many others have been of the like description, which turns out to be a mere fabrication ; for when General Winchester found himself pursued in his attempt to escape, lie with a few others surrendered themselves to a chief of the Wyandot nation, and not a hair of their heads were hurt, *except the injury received from the fright.*

It is also stated in the same letter, that Colonels Allen and Lewis were among the slain ; in contradiction of which, in General Harrison's letter to Governor Meigs, dated 29th January, it is stated that General Winchester, Colonel Lewis and Brigade Major Gerrard are among the prisoners. The conclusion is plain, that had those deluded people not have been overcome by fear, and surrendered themselves at once, they might have enjoyed the same safety as did General Winchester and his companions.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Inpavioa of York, Upper Canada—Fall of the Redoubts defending the Harbor and Citadel—Explosion of a Magazine within the Citadel—General Pike dangerously wounded by the Fall of the Timbers, Retreat of General Sheaffe and the Surrender of the Town—Loss of the two Armies—Invasion of the Niagara Frontier—A vigorous Defence made by the Regulars and Militia employed in the Defence of that Post—The British compelled to retreat—The American Army moves on Burlington Heights—The American Army attacked, under Night, in their Camp at Stony Creek—Its feat of the American Army—American Force retreats to Fort George—British Forces, under General Vincent, follow the Enemy—Affair at the Beaver Dams.

IN the month of April, 1813, the ice having completely broken up in the port of Sackett's Harbor, where the American squadron under Commodore Chauncey had wintered, General Dearborn, commanding the right division of the Army of the Centre, consisting of four thousand men stationed in that vicinity, selected two thousand of the most efficient of his division*, and on the 22d of the month embarked them on board the fleet with which he ascended the lake, and with this force appeared off the harbor of York, the capital of Upper Canada, on the morning of the 27th.

The enemy appearing to threaten an attack upon the town, General Sheaffe collected his forces which consisted of about seven hundred men, including regulars and

militia, with about one hundred Indians ; and with these he made a most determined resistance to the landing of the enemy ; but at length, overcome by numbers, he was compelled to retire; by which means the enemy was enabled to effect his landing a short distance above the fort, which was situated about two miles to the westward of the town, at the entrance of the harbor.

So soon as the American troops, who were led on by General Pike, had made good their landing, they formed into two lines, (the front of which was commanded personally by General Pike, and the rear or reserve line by Colonel Pearce,) and in this order advanced upon the first battery and carried it by assault ; they then advanced towards the citadel in the same order, and by the same means captured an intervening battery.

Here the columns halted, in order to dress the lines for an attack upon the main works. At this moment a large magazine accidentally exploded, by which a quantity of stones and timbers were thrown into the air, and in their fall killed and wounded a number on both sides, amongst whom was the American General Pike.

The British regulars and militia, highly appreciating the charge committed to them by their king and country, in the defence of the capital, performed prodigies of valor ; but being overpowered by a force nearly three times their number and in a high state of discipline, they were compelled to retreat towards the town.

General Sheaffe then held a council with his principal officers and the civil authorities of the town, by whom it was advised that he should retreat towards Kingston

*American History of the War, published in New York.

|| The American troops had been preparing for this expedition the whole winter, and no pains had been spared in their discipline.

with the remainder of His Majesty's troops ; and that the commandant of militia should treat with the American commander for terms for the surrender of York.

At the capture of York, the British lost not Less than four hundred, three hundred of whom were made prisoners of war, and about forty killed and wounded by the explosion. The Americans lost three hundred and seventy-eight, thirty-eight of whom were killed and two hundred and twenty-two wounded by the explosion of the magazine. General Pike died of his contusions a few minutes after being carried on board one of the vessels.

On the 8th of May, the American army under General Dearborn once more evacuated York, from whence they proceeded again to Sackett's Harbor, where preparations were immediately made for invading the Niagara frontier. The necessary preparations being completed, the American fleet, on the 23d of the same month, again ascended Lake Ontario, and on the morning of the 27th, appeared off the harbor of Newark.

The morning proved very favorable to the invaders, as a dense fog had settled on the river and the margin of the lake for nearly half a mile out ; and consequently they were not perceived until the flotilla of boats bearing the troops of the enemy were within a few rods of the shore. The boats employed in the transportation of the enemy from the right bank of the river, fell down the river under cover of the fog, until they joined those disembarking from the fleet, where the whole landed on the beach, on the right side of the entrance of the harbor.

So soon as the enemy's fleet made its appearance before the harbor, the garrison was placed in the best possible posture of defence ; and a vigorous stand was made by General Vincent to the landing of their troops ;

but being overpowered by the numerical strength of the assailants, it was found necessary to spike the guns, destroy the magazines, and retire as well from the main fort as from the outworks, though not until a loss had been sustained on the part of the British of nearly three hundred and fifty including regulars and militia.

It was evident from the conduct of the Canadian militia at the captures of York and Fort George, that they were fast attaining to a high state of military discipline. The marked coolness and fearless intrepidity with which the York and Lincoln militia resisted the approach of the enemy towards their shores, would have reflected honor on a band of veterans long accustomed to " the din of arms."

The Americans moved forward in three strong brigades, under Generals Chandler, Winder, and Boyd, with an advance of light troops and riflemen, under Colonels Scott and Forsyth, the whole commanded by General Lewis the next in command to General Dearborn, whose low state of health at this time compelled him to keep his bed, from whence he issued all his orders. The loss of the Americans, according to their own account, at the action before Fort George, was not less than two hundred.

General Vincent continued his retreat as far as Burlington Heights, near the head waters of Lake Ontario ; and, on the 1st day of June, was followed by an American army of three thousand five hundred infantry and about three hundred cavalry, commanded by Generals Chandler and Winder, for the purpose, as was vainly boasted, of making prisoners of the whole British army, and thus terminate the contest of the north-western frontier.

On the evening of the 5th, the enemy's forces encamped near the village of Stony Creek, about nine miles

from the British cantonments, with full purpose to close up with the British next day and attack their position. But General Vincent, who had taken every pains to ascertain the strength of the force with which he was menaced, despatched Colonel Harvey with two companies of light infantry, to reconnoitre their camp ; and from the report of that officer, General Vincent was resolved to attack them that very night.

All the troops, both regulars and militia, that could possibly be spared from the garrison at Burlington Heights, together with those who had retreated from

George, amounting in all to about seven hundred, were ordered to be in readiness for a movement. Immediately after dark, they commenced an advance towards Stony Creek, where, after several halts, in order to reconnoitre the country through which they were marching, they arrived between one and two o'clock of the morning of the 6th of June. Immediately the quarter guard of the enemy was surprised and taken, and the assailants rushed into the camp where all was in apparent security. But such a scene of carnage commenced—the huzzas of the besiegers, the yells of the Indians led on by Captain Brant, the clashing of bayonets and above all the thunder of the cannon and musketry, rendered it truly appalling. A column of the enemy was at length formed into some kind of order, but to no purpose ; they were by this time completely unnerved and dispirited, which, together with the darkness of the night and the clouds of smoke, threw them into the greatest confusion and disorder. Not so, however, with the British troops, their plans had been so well concerted that every man knew the rallying signal ; they were, therefore, at all times beyond surprise. The American army, being completely discomfited, retreated from their bivouac in the greatest confusion.

As soon as General Vincent had completed the defeat of the enemy, he again fell back upon Burlington Heights, taking as trophies of his victory three field pieces and a brass field howitzer, captured from the enemy, besides both their generals and about one hundred and fifty officers, sergeants and rank and file.

After the defeat at Stony Creek, the American army, in the most indelible terror, retreated towards Fort George, without the least military order or subordination : in fact, such officers as could avail themselves of horses on the road, regardless of the means employed for that purpose, took them and made their way to the lines with all possible speed, and left the rest of the army to shift for themselves; they therefore retreated in small detached parties, some of whom had exonerated themselves of their arms and equipments. Thus did they travel towards their head quarters in parties of from two or three to a dozen ; and were, in compassion for their sufferings, succored by those very people whose houses, a day or two previous, they had ransacked and plundered

A short time afterwards, General Vincent, receiving some reinforcements, marched towards Fort George with a view to invest that post. He formed his line on the Four Mile Creek, with his left resting on the lake.

General Lewis, who now had the full command of the American army, (General Dearborn having resigned,) finding his advanced posts and foraging parties continually harassed and frequently made prisoners by small detachments of British troops stationed at different posts through the country in order to maintain a communication that supplies might be received in the camp, despatched Colonel Boerstler with about six or seven hundred men to disperse these small camps so annoying to his army. The American Colonel was however attacked by a body of Indian warriors headed by Captain Brant,

supported by a piquet of nearly one hundred men, near the village of Beaver Dams ; and such was the terror of Colonel Boerstler and those under his command, that he surrendered himself and his whole force to Colonel Bishop.

CHAPTER XXIV.

An Expedition formed at Kingston against Sackett's Harbor—Failure of that Expedition—Affairs in the Neighborhood of Detroit—General Proctor marches a Force against Fort Meigs—Arrival of General Clay with a Reinforcement for the Army under General Harrison—An Attack upon the British Batteries—The British, in turn, attack the American Position—The Americans suffer a total Defeat—Loss sustained on both Sides—General Proctor returns to Detroit.

DURING the operations on the Niagara frontier, an expedition was fitted out at Yngston for a descent upon Sackett's Harbor, Tinder a mutual arrangement between Sir George Prevost the commander in chief and Sir James Lucas Yeo the British commodore.

On the 28th of May, the expedition was ready for sailing. It consisted of thirty-three gun boats, each carrying a proportion of troops, accompanied by the commodore's flag-ship. About ten o'clock that night, they weighed anchor and stood for the American side of the lake. On their appearance before Sackett's Harbor, the alarm was instantly given ; and the regulars and militia, posted in the neighborhood, hurried to the relief of the troops left by General Dearborn for the defence of the place.

Colonel Baynes, who commanded the British troops on this expedition, lost no time in effecting a landing, though in the face of a large body of American militia under Colonel Mills, posted on the beach for the purpose of opposing their debarkation. No sooner had the British troops formed on the beach and thrown in a volley upon the enemy, than they fled in confusion. The

grenadiers of the 100th Regiment formed the British advance-guard, who gallantly drove the enemy from every post of which they had taken possession.

General Brown, of the United States militia, having collected a large force, hurried to Sackett's Harbor where he assumed the command of the whole ; and, advancing, attacked the rear of the British, while they were assailed in front by the batteries, which completely disconcerted the movements of the troops for a moment.

Colonel Baynes perceiving from the immense force which was now opposed to him, that it would be impossible to attain the primary object of the expedition, it was therefore deemed advisable to abandon the enterprise ; the troops were accordingly re-embarked, after having sustained a loss of two hundred and fifty-nine in killed, wounded and missing, while that of the enemy must have been double that number.

Had the object for which this expedition was planned succeeded, namely, the capture of the town and arsenal, the American loss would have been immense, as this was the grand depot for the whole naval and military stores for the service of the lakes and the Army of the Centre as well as the militia in that vicinity. Already had the enemy burnt a quantity of the stores, with an intention no doubt of evacuating the place, when General Brown arrived with a large reinforcement which immediately arrested the current of victory.

The movements in the neighborhood of Amherstburg and the Michigan and Ohio frontiers, are next in succession for consideration. After the signal defeat of General Winchester at the River Raisin, General Harrison took up a position with the whole remaining force, consisting of two thousand, five hundred men, at Fort Meigs, a post on the left bank of Maumee river, there to await the arrival of reinforcements to enable him,

with effect, to attack forts Detroit and Amherstburg. The American commander had employed every means which art could suggest, in order to strengthen Fort Meigs : he had so completely entrenched himself as to bid defiance to an assault by any British force which could in that quarter be brought against him.

About the 20th of April, 1813, General Proctor collected a force of about nine hundred and thirty men including four hundred and sixty of the militia, besides twelve hundred Indians, at Detroit, and embarked them on board a flotilla of gun boats and batteaux, whence they proceeded across the lake to the mouth of Maumee River which they ascended about twelve miles, and landed at Fort Meigs, the position of General Harrison. Here the construction of batteries was immediately commenced ; but owing to the torrents of rain which continued to fall during the whole period the batteries were being erected, rendered it impossible to complete them before the first of May ; on the morning of which a regular siege was commenced upon the enemy's fort, but without making the least apparent impression.

A detachment consisting of the flank companies with a field-piece was then selected to cross the river with a view to enfilade the enemy's position, while an incessant fire was maintained by the artillery upon both sides until the morning of the 5th, when an officer arrived at Fort Meigs with a small detachment from General Clay's division, bearing intelligence that that general was now only a few miles distant, on his way to reinforce the garrison of Fort Meigs with his whole division consisting of thirteen hundred men. On this information, General Harrison immediately despatched an express to General Clay, with orders that he should land the troops under his command on the right bank of the river, with a view to penetrate and destroy the British batteries and spike the guns. At the time General Clay was met by the courier from General Harrison, he

was only a short distance from Fort Meigs : he immediately passed to the opposite side of the river, and after examining the banks for some distance downwards, found a convenient place to disembark. After landing, the troops were formed into two columns, the command of the front of which was confided to Colonel Dudley, which was intended for the attack. In this order they advanced so rapidly on the British batteries, and had so completely eluded the view of the sentinels, that within a few minutes, and without the loss of a single man on their part, they had executed General Harrison's orders, and taken a few prisoners.

At the moment that Colonel Dudley commenced the assault upon the British batteries, General Harrison made a sortie with his whole force upon the flank companies; but their defence was so determined, that he was completely foiled in every assault. The British reserve troops were immediately rallied, amounting to about two hundred including regulars and militia, the most of the latter being employed by the commissariat, collecting supplies for the troops. This small detachment, under the gallant Captain Muir of the 41st Regiment, advanced upon the enemy who was strongly posted in line in rear of the British batteries, with his right resting on the river, his centre extending through a clear space, while his left was lost to view in the adjoining woods.

So soon as Captain Muir advanced within view of the enemy's line; he formed line within the verge of the woods, with files a little extended, and in this position threw in a well directed volley upon the enemy's right. The enemy immediately returned the fire ; after which, for some time, an incessant fire was maintained upon both sides with great effect. It was evident, however, that the British, whose number was originally small, was fast decreasing, when the brave and intrepid Captain Chambers of the 41st Regiment, who had previously

equipped himself with the arms and accoutrements of an unfortunate soldier of his own regiment, who had already fallen in the field, exclaimed, " This will not do—we must charge them."

The order to charge was instantly communicated along the line, when immediately the little band, chiefly composed of the 41st Regiment supported by a few militiamen, emerged from the woods, with the gallant and fearless Muir at their head, and his brave coadjutor Chambers on the left, (at once performing the duty of a *soldier* in the double capacity of an officer and private,) and rushed upon the right of the enemy's column. This movement was as gallant as it was prompt and decisive, and entirely confirmed the fortunate issue of that brilliant achievement : the enemy hesitated, wavered, and at length gave way ; the panic was immediately imparted throughout their whole line, when they turned in confusion and retreated towards their boats, spreading terror in their flight ; but the Indians, who all this time had remained silent spectators of this sanguinary struggle, watching for a favorable moment to commence the work of death, intercepted their retreat ; and, before they could reach their boats, upwards of six hundred and fifty of them were killed.

The enemy's loss, in this affair, in killed, wounded and prisoners, was no less than eleven hundred and forty-five. Among the killed was the American Colonel Dudley, a brave, intrepid and magnanimous officer. The British lost, in the action of the 5th, fourteen killed and forty-seven wounded. Of this loss the 41st Regiment alone had eleven killed and thirty-nine wounded.

After the action, General Proctor was informed by the Indian chiefs, that it was impossible to restrain their warriors from their ancient and established custom of returning home to their villages, after a battle of any consequence, (as was the action just fought,) to erri

themselves in a revelry in the plunder they had acquired ; he was, therefore, on the 9th of the month, compelled to embark his guns and stores, under the fire of the enemy's batteries, and henceforth abandon the enterprise.

CHAPTER XXV.

Action between the Peacock and Hornet—The Peacock surrenders and Hoists a Signal of Distress—Loss of the two contending Vessels—Reception of Captain Lawrence in the United States—Captain Lawrence appointed to the Command of the Chesapeake,—Affair between that Frigate and the Shannon before Boston Harbor—Surrender of the Chesapeake—Loss of both Frigates—Remarks—Action between the British Sloop of War Pelican and the United States Sloop of War Argus—Surrender of the Argus—Loss sustained—Engagement between the Brig Boxer and the Brig Enterprise.

Jr is proper, in this period of the narrative, to take a retrospect of the naval operations of the year, both as respects the seaboard and the lakes of Upper Canada ; as much of the movements of the land forces on the Canadian frontiers to the westward, depended on having the command of Lake Erie. Hitherto the arms of Great Britain, by land, (a few unavoidable reverses excepted,) have been covered with victory, notwithstanding the great superiority of numbers with which they had at all times to contend. The national skill, and the heroic courage of the navies of the belligerents appear to be more on an equal footing. There are causes, however, to which this equality in naval gallantry and skill is to be ascribed, and to which, in a former part of this work has already been alluded.

The naval actions of any consequence, during the year 1813, were commenced by the British armed brig Peacock, Captain William Peake, and the American armed brig Hornet, Captain Lawrence, off the coast of Demarara, in latitude nearly six degrees north, longitude 50 degrees west.

On the 24th of March, Captain Peake discovered the *Hornet* beating against the wind, for the purpose, as would appear, of coming up with an English brig lying at anchor near the Carabona banks, on that coast. The *Peacock* immediately stood for her under a crowd of canvass, which Captain Lawrence, perceiving, put about and laid his course to meet his adversary.

About half past five o'clock, P. M., the vessels arrived within range of shot, and almost at the same moment of time each fired a broadside. The action was maintained, for about fifteen minutes, with the utmost vigor upon both sides; the *Hornet* was then laid upon the starboard quarter of her antagonist, for the purpose of raking her, while the *Peacock* was crippled in such a manner that it became impossible to fetch her round. In this position the battery of the *Hornet* was so ably directed in raking her, that she was found to be sinking, and was therefore, in a few minutes, compelled to strike her flag and hoist a signal of distress at the same moment. Captain Lawrence, perceiving a signal of distress on board of his vanquished enemy, immediately despatched his boats in order to save the crew; but in spite of every effort, the *Peacock* went down, carrying with her nine of her own crew and three of the *Hornet's*, who were with a humane and laudable zeal exerting themselves for the safety of the wounded.

The loss of the British, in killed and wounded, in this action, was thirty-eight, five of whom were killed, amongst which number was the gallant Captain Peake. The American loss was trifling, being only one killed and four wounded*.

*Captain Lawrence's Report to the Secretary of the Navy.

On the arrival of Captain Lawrence in the United States, he was every where greeted with the enthusiastic plaudits of his grateful country; and was, by the government, as a mark of its approbation for his consummate skill and courage, appointed to the command of the *Chesapeake* frigate, then repairing in the harbor of Boston.

When Captain Lawrence arrived at Boston to assume the command of the *Chesapeake*, the *Shannon* and the *Tenedos*, two British frigates, were cruising without the harbor. With a view to afford Captain Lawrence and his country a full opportunity of testing the relative skill and prowess of the British and American navy, Captain Broke, of the *Shannon* frigate, ordered the *Tenedos* to lay her course to the ocean, and at the end of a month to join him at the same place.

The *Tenedos* having separated, Captain Broke wore the *Shannon* down into the mouth of Boston harbor, coming close by the light house, having the British colors flying at the mast head. This was a naval challenge of which Captain Lawrence did not affect the least ignorance, but with as little delay as possible got ready for sea.

On the 1st day of June, between twelve and one o'clock, the *Chesapeake* weighed anchor and stood out to meet her adversary. Much naval skill was displayed upon both sides in manoeuvring the ships for the action; and about half past five o'clock, P. M., the ships arrived within range of each other's cannon. The beach was literally covered with spectators as far as vision extended, to witness these two naval champions contend for the honor and glory of their country—nay, Captain Broke had yet something more to achieve: the trident had been partly, in the eyes of the world, wrested from the hand of Britannia by the very nation, the champion of which he was now about to encounter, and that too

on his own shores. A more than common interest seemed to pervade all classes of the spectators, when these naval *gladiators*, as it were, entered the *arena*. The Chesapeake had, in imitation of the Shannon, a national color at each mast head, on one of which was the inscription, " free trade and sailor's rights." These two ships proudly tossed before them the white surf of the ocean, in nautical manoeuvring, as if in defiance of each other. At length, about half past five o'clock in the evening, they came to close quarters, and the battle commenced. No sooner had they exchanged a few broadsides than the Chesapeake dropped her quarter on the anchor of the Shannon, and thus they became foul in each other's rigging. The fire from both ships at this time was truly tremendous ; but such was the coolness and intrepidity displayed by the British, and such the effect and precision of their fire, that the enemy was completely driven from his Varters. The boarders of the Shannon were immediately summoned ; and with Captain Broke at their head, they rushed on the enemy's decks.

At this crisis of the engagement, for a few moments, a most confused and disorderly struggle ensued ; but the enemy was forced, by the boarders, from every post of which he had taken possession, and ultimately called for quarters. The American flag was struck and the British flag hoisted in its stead—the whole of which was accomplished in fifteen minutes from the commencement of the action.

The brave Captain Lawrence, of the Chesapeake, was severely wounded at the commencement of the action, but refused to leave the deck ; he still, leaning on the companion-way for support, continued to issue his orders with the same degree of coolness ; but while calling up the boarders, he was wounded through the body by a musket ball which brought him to the deck, and while carrying below by his companions, gave his last

heroic command—" *Dont give up the ship,*" which mandate has since become proverbial amongst American seamen.

The loss of the Shannon, in this short but sanguinary affair, was twenty-three killed and fifty-six wounded : amongst the latter was the brave Captain Broke, who was wounded in the head with a cutlass in the affray on the deck of the Chesapeake, while attempting to save some of the Americans from the fury of his boarders, at the moment when he conceived himself to be in the arms of victory. The loss on board of the Chesapeake was forty-seven killed and ninety-three wounded. The gallant Captain Lawrence died of his wounds, in four days after the action ; so also did the first lieutenant Ludlow : they were both carried into Halifax, and there interred with the honors of war. The pall was borne at the funeral by six of the 'oldest captains on the Halifax station, then in port.

It has been asserted by American writers, with a view no doubt to eclipse the glory of this achievement, that much depended on the relative strength of the two frigates in deciding the victory. It is true the Shannon mounted fifty-three guns while the Chesapeake mounted only forty-nine, a difference of four guns in favor of the British. But while this is admitted, (which of itself is not sufficient to warrant a victory in so short a period, between two ships of such great force,) it should also be known, that on board the Chesapeake there was a complement of 440 men, all stout, young and in good health ; while on board of the Shannon there were but three hundred and thirty men, making no allowance for sick, which that there were such on board, was more than probable, as she had not been in port for some months previous. This leaves a difference of one hundred and ten men in favor of the Chesapeake. Captain Lawrence was fully aware of the force to which he was

about to be opposed ; there can therefore be no question but he put out to sea prepared in the best possible manner for the contest.

The capture of the Chesapeake was the precursor to another naval triumph. It seemed only to evince that British seamen were in that day what they had ever been, and what they would continue to be until the end of time, when opposed to any thing like an equal force, always invincible on their *native element* to their enemies to whatever nation under the sun those enemies belonged.

On the morning of the 14th of August, His Majesty's sloop of war Pelican, commanded by Captain Maples, while cruising the British channel, perceived a strange sail at some distance, which on closer examination was found to carry American colors and crowding all canvass. As the Pelican bore up to her, she hauled in and cleared away for action.

The British commenced the engagement with three cheers ; and for forty-five minutes both vessels maintained a most desperate and sanguinary conflict, after which the Pelican was laid on board the enemy and the boarders summoned ; but at the very moment when the boarders were about to assail the enemy on his own decks, he hauled down his colors.

The enemy proved to be the United States sloop of war Argus, commanded by Captain Allen. In the 1st of the engagement, Captain Allen was wounded in the left leg about the knee, for which he had to suffer amputation in the thigh, and of which he died next day.

The loss on board the Pelican was two killed and six wounded : on board the Argus, the killed and wounded amounted to forty. Amongst the wounded of the Argus

was the lieutenant, who was also with the captain wounded early in the action.

The next engagement to be recorded, was fought at some distance from the entrance of Portsmouth harbor, on the coast of New Hampshire, in the United States, between His Majesty's armed brig Boxer, Captain Blythe, and the United States armed brig Enterprise, Lieutenant Burrows.

On the 5th of September, these two vessels met ; and while yet at some distance from each other, the Boxer fired a gun by way of challenge and hoisted the British colors at each mast head and an ensign at the mizen peak. The enemy continued her course until having wore round and made the weather gage of his adversary, fired a shot in his turn and hoisted three national colors in imitation of the Boxer.

About two o'clock, P. M., when the two brigs were within a few rods of each other, the crew of the Boxer gave three cheers and threw in a broadside upon the enemy, which was immediately returned by the enterprise. This conflict now began to rage with all the fury which a seafight was capable of assuming.

About half past three o'clock, the Boxer becoming considerably crippled and consequently unmanageable, the Enterprise wore round to lay in a posture for raking, in which position she continued for ten minutes, raking the Boxer at each fire with a whole broadside of grape and canister, until the situation of the Boxer rendered it advisable to surrender, being incapable of further resistance.

In consequence of the crippled state of the Boxer early in the action, her loss was much greater than that of the enterprise. In this engagement the commanders of both vessels fell ; and the hull and rigging of the

Boxer was nearly rendered useless before it terminated. Lieutenant Mc. Call, on whom devolved the command of the Enterprise after the death of Lieutenant Burrows, took his prize into Portland harbor, where the bodies of the two hostile chiefs were interred beside each other with military honors

CHAPTER XXVI.

Engagement between the hostile Squadrons on Lake Erie, commanded by Commodores Barclay and Perry—Commodore Perry transfers his Flag, in the Heat of Action, in an open Boat—British Squadron surrenders—Remarks—Retreat of the British Forces from Detroit and Amherstburg—Action at Moravian Village—General Proctor continues his Retreat to Ancaster—Remarks.

DURING these operations on the ocean, the American armies intended for the invasion of Canada, had been for the most part quietly resting on their arms, waiting for the fitting out of a fleet which was then in a forward state, to contest the dominion of Lake Erie, with Commodore Barclay. In the latter part of August this fleet was ready to sail, consisting of nine vessels of various sizes carrying in all fifty-nine guns, the command of which was confided to Commodore Perry:

The British fleet, under Commodore Barclay, consisting of six vessels of various sizes, and carrying an aggregate of sixty-nine guns, on the morning of the 10th of September, descried the American squadron at anchor in Put-in-bay, near the head of Lake Erie. The British commodore immediately crowded sail and bore down upon the enemy, which Commodore Perry discovering, weighed anchor and got under way to meet him.

The hostile squadrons formed lines of battle about ten o'clock, A. M.—but in consequence of the calm which that morning prevailed on the lake, it was forty-five minutes past eleven before the ships could approach within range of shot. On the enemy's flag ship, the Lawrence, (which was ahead of the squadron,) nearing, the Detroit, the flag ship of Commodore Barclay, opened

a heavy fire, in opposition to which, the distance being so great, the *Lawrence* could not bring her carronades to bear. Commodore Perry, however, continued to approach his antagonist, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which he labored. The *Queen Charlotte*, by this time, had come up and opened her fire upon the American commodore ; yet Perry, undismayed by his hazardous situation, steadily maintained his course, not even waiting for his smaller vessels to come up—until within pistol shot of his adversaries, he commenced a fire in turn. He still continued to advance as if he intended to board the *Detroit*, until the sides of the *Lawrence* were in a number of places perforated with shot, his decks literally swept of his crew, and almost every gun rendered useless.

In this crisis of the engagement, the other American vessels, which had been delayed by the calm, began to approach ; and Captain Perry, discovering that the *Lawrence* was becoming completely untenable, embarked with the greatest coolness into an open boat, in the midst of a tremendous cannonade, and transferred his flag to the *Niagara*, after which the *Lawrence* drifted into the British line and surrendered.

So soon as Perry raised his flag in the *Niagara*, he ordered his smaller vessels to close with the British squadron ; he then broke through the line and laid himself alongside the *Detroit*, where he poured in such tremendous broadsides, that, together with the injury she had already sustained, compelled her to surrender. The other vessels had all ere this closed into action; and having maintained such an incessant fire upon the *Queen Charlotte* as obliged her to follow the example of the *Detroit*, to which destiny the whole fleet was in a few moments compelled to submit.

This victory was certainly signal and decisive on the part of the Americans. The intrepid conduct of Captain Perry through the whole day, called forth the admiration of Captain Barclay with the whole officers and crews of his fleet ; but his conduct after the engagement was no less conspicuous for kindness and humanity towards the prisoners. To this the brave and generous Barclay sets his seal in the following declaration--that, " the conduct of Perry towards the captive officers and seamen was sufficient to immortalize him."

The loss of the British squadron, in this engagement, in killed and wounded, amounted to one hundred and thirty-five, forty-one of whom were of the former, among whom were Captain Finnis and the first Lieutenant of the *Queen Charlotte*. In this action, Captain Barclay's only remaining hand was disabled, having previously lost the other in the service of his king and country. The loss of the Americans in killed and wounccyl amounted to one hundred and twenty-three, twenty-six of whom were killed.

It would be impossible to conceive in what extraordinary and extravagant language this victory was extolled throughout the United States. The circumstance, too., of Captain Barclay having an advantage of ten guns over the etterny, was a matter of too much importance to make the story take well, to be once lost sight of. Nothing, however, was said of the greater number of small craft which the enemy possessed—vessels upon which, when brought to close quarters, it is next to a moral impossibility to bring the guns of a larger vessel to bear, while they at the same time possess all the power o annoying them. But the principal disadvantage under which Commodore Barclay had to encounter the enemy, was not in the number of ships. The American government had, for a length of time, been engaged in the most extensive and vigorous preparations for the equipment of a naval force on Lake Erie, which should

afford to that nation the ascendancy on that interior ocean, Being now fully convinced that before a conquest could be made of Upper Canada, they must command the lake—hence the long inactive state of the American army destined for that service. Commodore Barclay had not in his whole fleet fifty seamen*, and even a number of these were only rated ordinary seamen, the deficiency of whom was supplied by soldiers drafted Chiefly from the Newfoundland fencible regiment, whose very situation in life, as soldiers, precluded them from any knowledge of the management of a ship, or even of the technical phrases of naval officers. However good those men might be in the field in their original capacity as soldiers, their ignorance of the duty to be performed as sailors, in all the hurry and bustle of a sea fight, must have had a strong and powerful tendency to reduce them, at least, to one half the strength which their number would import. In opposition to this, the United States government, in its preparations for prosecuting the war on the Canadian frontier, selected crews to man the fleet on Lake Erie, of the ablest and most skilful seamen in the United States navy. It was determined by that government that Canada should fall before its arms, and therefore nothing was left undone which could be done to promote this object. The consummate diligence with which Perry's squadron had been equipped with seamen and necessaries for the important service for which it was intended, could not fail of securing to him the victory, even over a force of much more potency than that under the command of Commodore Barclay. The victory once gained, General Harrison, who was daily receiving reinforcements at Fort Meigs, waited to give the *coup de grace* to the enterprise.

*About seven to each vessel.

After the capture of the British squadron on Lake Erie, Forts Antherstburg, Detroit and the adjacent posts became untenable by the British, and were consequently abandoned. Before General Proctor had evacuated the positions which he occupied on that part of the frontier he destroyed the magazines and forts together with all such public stores as he could not carry with the army.

During these transactions, General Harrison having received reinforcements amounting to seven or eight thousand men, including four thousand volunteers from the state of Kentucky under Samuel Shelby the governor of that state, made a descent upon Canada. General Perry conveyed all the troops, artillery and stores, in his flotilla, from the mouth of the Miami to the Canadian shore, except the dragoons who were to advance by land and so order their march that they might arrive in the neighborhood of Malden at the same time with the infantry.

General Harrison, on his arrival, having found the different posts evacuated, invested General McArthur with the chief command of those garrisons, and prepared to pursue the retreating army up the river Thames with a force of three thousand men, including Colonel Johnson's corps of dragoons consisting of one thousand.

So soon as General Proctor understood that Harrison was in pursuit of him, he formed a position on the right bank of the River Thames, near the Moravian village, and there awaited his approach. On the 5th of October the enemy made his appearance in great force. General Proctor had formed his troops into line, to the number of five or six hundred. The Indians under Tecumseh, to the amount of twelve hundred, occupied a swampy thick to the right of General Proctor's position.

The first movement which was made, after a few volleys, the enemy's cavalry charged the British line, which completely decided the issue of the day : the line gave way at the charge ; and the enemy's cavalry formed in the rear to commence with the rifle, when the British troops surrendered. To the left of the enemy's position, which was opposed to the Indians, the battle raged with more obstinacy. This part of the enemy's line had even given way until a column under Governor Shelby was brought up to its support. The Indians, encouraged by the presence of Tecumseh, fought with an enthusiasm bordering on desperation, until the fall of that great aboriginal hero, when the Indians visibly gave way until they had' entirely left the field,

General Proctor with his staff continued their retreat until they arrived at the village of Ancaster, about ten miles distant from Burlington Heights, where they remained a few days to collect the scattered remains of the army, which amounted to nearly two hundred men.

Before the American army returned to Detroit, they consigned to the flames the Moravian village, pretending to justify their savage conduct by offering it as a retaliation for what they called the massacre at the River Raisin.

During General Harrison's absence from Detroit, a few of the Indian tribes tendered their services to General Mc. Arthur, to raise the hatchet against the enemies of the United States by whom they were readily accepted.

In the action at Moravian village, the British lost, in killed, wounded and missing, about three hundred and sixty-nine, three hundred of whom were prisoners. The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, was about fifty.

The success of the American arms on Lake Jrie and its surrounding shores, had so intoxicated and bewildered the enemy, that, in their subsequent movements, nothing but conquest and victory were *calculated upon*—no allowance whatever was made for a failure in any one point. " Canada must now be ours," was the exulting and arrogant language of that deluded people.

General Wilkinson was called from the south to assume the command of the American forces in the north, in the room of General Dearborn, which now with General Hampton's division amounted to about eighteen thousand men, to which General Harrison's division was ordered to be added. Such were the gigantic and formidable preparations for the capture of Montreal, where the American soldiers were promised, as an additional incitement, good winter quarters.

CHAPTER XXVII.

An American Army under General Wilkinson, intended to invade Mantreal, assembles at Grenadier Island—Movement of that. Army down the River St. Lawrence—Engagement at Crysler's Farm—The Enemy driven of the Field—An American Army, under General Hampton, enters Lower Canada at the Chateaugay River—General Hampton's Army driven back to the United States Territory—The United States Forces retire to winter Quarters—Colonel Iluray, with a small Force, advances on Fort George—General Mc. Clare burns the Town of Newark and evacuates that Post—Capture of Fort Niagara by a British Force under Colonel Murray—Capture of Lewiston—Capture of Buffalo and Black Rock—Conflagration of the American Frontier on the Niagara River—Overtures of Mediation offered by the Russian Emperor—British and American Ministers treat at Gottenburg.

IN the month of October, that portion of the American army stationed on the Niagara frontier was ordered to Sackett's Harbor ; at which place, a short time afterwards, General Harrison arrived with such part of his army as was not required for the defence of the western frontier.

The enemy endeavored, by several false movements, to impose a belief on the British generals, that the intention of this force collecting at Sackett's Harbor, was a descent upon Kingston. However, their movements were so closely watched, that every information necessary was acquired in due time to ascertain the future disposition of this *truly redoubtable host*.

After General Wilkinson had collected all his forces at Grenadier's Island, (between Kingston and Sackett's Harbor,) they were embarked on board the flotilla to descend the River St Lawrence. On the 6th of November they arrived at Williamsburg, where the stores and munitions of war of this *invincible armada*, together with *all* the troops, were disembarked on the Canadian side of the river, with a view to pass the British posts at Prescott and its vicinity in the night, undiscovered ; but in this particular they were egregiously deceived. A force, though small compared with that of the enemy, had been held in readiness at Kingston to follow the movements of the American army, under the command of Colonel Morrison, consisting of the skeletons of the 49th and 89th Regiments and three companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs with a few militia—in all, amounting to nearly eight hundred men, with a few gun boats to hover on the rear of the enemy's flotilla.

As the enemy came up with the Fort of Prescott, fully persuaded that all within was perfectly quiet, they were assailed upon both elements by such a fire of musketry and battery guns as at first quite disconcerted their advance.

After the enemy had passed Prescott, they continued their advance a few miles further down the river, where, in the morning, as they were preparing the flotilla to move on towards the rapids of the Long Sault, Colonel Morrison with his detachment came up with them. The American General Boyd was ordered to form his division consisting of nearly four thousand men. They were drawn up in three columns, (one of which was composed of cavalry,) under Generals Covington, Swartwout and Coles. Colonel Morrison, on account of the superior strength of the enemy, was compelled for a length of time to act altogether on the defensive. The enemy, by repeatA charging with his cavalry on the left of the British line, attempted to turn that flank; but the

moment Colonel Morrison perceived the manoeuvre, he prepared the 49th in conjunction with the 89th to form an echelon, while the Voltigeurs and militia, under Lieutenant Colonel Pearson, were employed to flank the enemy's infantry. The enemy, perceiving the British column performing the field movements in double quick time, supposed the troops to be leaving the field, and in exultation gave a cheer ; but before they arrived on the ground occupied by the British, a crest was presented, to penetrate which they had neither courage nor discipline sufficient to attempt ; and the heavy oblique fire maintained by the echelon forced them to retire in confusion at every effort they made.

After the repeated and unsuccessful charges of the enemy's cavalry, the infantry was then ordered to advance, who charged with as little success as the cavalry ; and in the last of those sallies of the infantry, the 89th, under Captain Barnes, captured a gun from the assailants. Colonel Morrison now closed his column with the enemy, who maintained a heavy fire in order to check his advance ; but the cool, steady and determined front with which the British column advanced by platoons, who together with the artillery kept up such a tremendous and destructive fire that the enemy was driven from his position in dismay, and compelled to seek refuge in their boats.

Lieutenant Colonel Pearson with the three companies of Voltigeurs and militia at this moment routed the enemy's light troops which had been formed to cover his retreat ; after which the British troops occupied for the night the ground upon which the enemy had taken up his position.

Never were the cool intrepidity and superior discipline of the British troops and militia of Canada displayed to better advantage than at the battle ofrysler's farm (the name by which this engagement has

been designated, from the place on which it was fought ;) and it fairly demonstrated that in nothing but numbers was this American army formidable, and by which means it became unwieldy to its undisciplined generals.

The loss of the British, in this engagement, amounted to one hundred and sixty-eight in killed and wounded, exclusive of twelve missing : that of the enemy was three hundred and thirty-nine in killed, wounded and missing*.

In Sir George Prevost's despatches to Earl Bathurst, in speaking of the different attempts by the enemy to invade His Majesty's North American colonies, honorable mention is repeatedly made of the loyalty and great zeal for the service of their sovereign, evinced by the inhabitants of Canada ; and General Wilkinson, in his despatches to his government of this affair, bears ample testimony to the truth of this statement. Among the killed of the enemy was one of their generals, Covington.

The enemy, under General Hampton, consisting of from eight to ten thousand, on the morning of the 21st October, commenced its entry into Canada, by the Chateaugay River, on its march for Montreal ; and on the 25th, having passed his whole force, magazines, and warlike munitions into the British territory, he commenced his advance ; and coming up with the British position which he found to be fortified by one continued succession of fortifications formed by angles well supplied with ordnance, with a line of breastworks extending

*General Wilkinson's Despatches to the Secretary of War.

According to British accounts, upwards of one hundred of this number were prisoners of war.

between—the whole extending for some miles and covered by a wood*. Next morning, with a view it would appear to avoid coming in contact with the British position, General Hampton's light troops forming his advance, were discovered advancing on both sides of the Chateaugay ; but Lieutenant Colonel De Salaberry, of the Canadian Voltigeurs, commanding the British advanced post, by a well concerted disposition of the troops under his command, consisting of the light company of the Canadian fencibles and two companies of the Voltigeurs, completely checked the advance of the enemy's light troops on the left bank of the river, with the whole main body of the American army under Generals Hampton and Izard ; while Captain Daily's company of the third battalion of embodied militia and Captain Bruyer's company of Chateaugay Chasseurs turned the enemy's advance troops on the right bank of the river. The enemy finding himself completely foiled in his exertions to pass this post, retired for some distance ; but attempted repeatedly in the course of the day to renew his efforts, all of which proved equally unsuccessful with his first endeavors ; and that night they once more commenced their retreat to the opposite side of the line of demarkation..

By the reports of prisoners who were taken in this affair with the enemy at Chateaugay, General Hampton's army actually engaged must have amounted to at least seven thousand infantry and two hundred cavalry besides ten pieces of field ordnance, while the British troops actually engaged did not exceed three hundred'. The

*General Hampton's Report, dated 1st November, 1813.

†Sir George Prevost's Report of this Affair, dated Montreal, 30th November, 1813.

loss sustained by the British in this action, in killed, wounded and missing, amounted to twenty-five : that of the enemy to fifty.

About the time the enemy made his appearance in front of the British position, Sir George Prevost arrived on the ground from Montreal, and was happily a witness to the heroic conduct of the troops engaged in that glorious achievement ; and in his report to Earl Bathurst, in the most exulting language, expressed his high approbation of their conduct.

General Wilkinson had, at an early stage of the expedition, transmitted an order to General Hampton to join him at St. Regis ; but that officer having learned the low state of General Wilkinson's supplies of provisions, and considering the state of the roads which was at this season of the year very indifferent, conceived it the most prudent method to disobey the order, and not place himself at too great a distance from his own magazines ; he therefore availed himself of the nearest route to Montreal, the unsuccessful result of which manoeuvre has just been detailed.

The American army was again ordered to cross the lines and take up their winter quarters in their own territory, after repeatedly suffering themselves to be defeated under the most mortifying and humiliating circumstances ; with the blame of which the commander in chief charged General Hampton, in consequence of his disobedience of orders, but with which the American Secretary of War more properly charged both ; however, it had the effect of checking the military zeal which appeared to manifest itself in the American ranks at a distance from the theatre of hostile operations, and completely to extinguish the ardor of the troops on the lines.

The country along the St. Lawrence being entirely exonerated from the incursions of the enemy, Colonel Murray, of the 100th Regiment, was ordered to advance from Burlington Heights, with a small force, towards Fort George, with a view at that time merely to prevent the predatory incursions of the enemy under General Mc. Clure (then in possession of that post.) the defenceless inhabitants of the surrounding country. But General Mc. Clure, having heard of the disasters which had befallen the army destined for Montreal, and conscious that a like fate might probably await him and his army, with that dastardly cowardice peculiar to himself and a few of his compatriots and traitors who joined themselves to his train, and against the very spirit of the law of nations and of civilized warfare, immersed the flourishing town of Newark in one continued sheet of flame, and ignobly fled with his followers into his own territory. The historian laments that it is not in his power to record one magnanimous act of that recreant general, to rescue his name from that gulf of infamy to which his nefarious conduct has for ever doomed it.

On the advance of Major General Riall towards the Niagara frontier, the American army, abandoned Lewiston, leaving the command of Fort Niagara to Captain Leonard of the artillery. On the evening of the 18th December, preparations were made for taking Fort Niagara from the enemy, for which service Colonel Murray of the 100th Regiment was selected to take the command; and early on the next morning this gallant officer at the head of the grenadier company of the Royal Scots, the grenadier and light companies of the 41st Regiment and a detachment of his own corps, crossed the river about two miles above the fort upon which they immediately advanced. On approaching the fortress, the centries planted on the outer works were surprised and taken, the countersign obtained, and in a few minutes the fort was carried at the point of the bayonet.

The loss on the part of the British, in this affair, was only six killed and five wounded: that of the enemy amounted to sixty-five killed and fourteen wounded, and the whole of the garrison made prisoners consisting of nearly three hundred and fifty. There were in the fort, at the time of its capture, twenty-seven pieces of ordnance of weighty calibre, three thousand muskets with the apparatus, besides large magazines of camp equipage and military clothing, which of course fell into the hands of the victors.

Major Leonard, the commandant of the garrison, who owned a farm on the margin of the river about five miles above the fort, conceiving every thing on the lines to be reduced to a state of tranquility, ventured to leave the fort the preceding evening for his farm, in order to attend to some domestic affairs, only received his first appraisal by hearing a royal salute fired from the garrison at daybreak in honor of the glorious achievement.

On the same day in which Fort Niagara was captured, the village of Lewiston, about eight miles above Fort Niagara, was taken possession of by a British force under Major General Riall, without opposition, in which place the public magazines were well filled with provisions and other military stores.

Towards the latter part of the same month, General Riall crossed the Niagara River at Black Rock, at the head of a force consisting of about six hundred men, detachments from the 8th or King's Regiment, 41st, 89th and 100th regiments, with a few militia volunteers, exclusive of six or seven companies of the Royal Scots under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Gordon, who were directed to land between the villages of Buffalo and Black Rock, about two miles distant from each other, with a view to divert the garrison of Black Rock while the other troops were landing in front of that post; but in consequence of the severity of the weather, it

number of the boats were stranded, by which means the troops were unable to land in time to effect the object for which they were previously intended ; however, the enemy was driven from both positions in a short time. The American loss in this affair was upwards of five hundred, one hundred and thirty of whom were prisoners of war : the loss of the British was inconsiderable compared with that of the enemy.

The state of exasperation to which the mind of every British subject had been wrought by the conduct of Mc. Clure, in burning the town of Newark, and exposing to all the inclemency of a Canadian winter both the helpless infant and infirm old age, that nothing but a similar retaliation could assuage ; the whole line of frontier, from Buffalo to Fort Niagara, was therefore burnt to ashes.

During this year, the Russian Emperor, Alexander, had tendered his services as mediator between Great Britain and the United States ; but Great Britain declined submitting the question to a monarch who was already known to entertain a great share of jealousy at the extent of the maritime power Great Britain possessed; but offered to treat with America by plenipotentiaries immediately named by the two governments, in any neutral dominion. To this the United States acceded, and Gottenburg was determined an the place of negotiation.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Review of the Effect the foregoing military Operations had on the Government and People of the United States—A British military Command despatched for the Protection of the London and Western Districts—Engagement at Long Woods—Unsuccessful Attack upon Odeltown by a Part of General Wilkinson's Army—Invasion of Upper Canada by an American Army under General Brown—Surrender of Fort Erie—Advance of the American Army down the Niagara River—A Detachment of British Troops moves out to check the Advance of the Enemy.

THE total failure of the expeditions which had been at so much expense fitted out for the invasion of Canada, had considerably subdued that ardor for military renown, which, at the commencement of the war, considering the defenceless state of Canada, promised so rich a harvest of laurels to the United States—add to this the tardy manner in which all diplomatic intercourse between the hostile nations was carried on, owing no doubt to the momentous interest which Great Britain took in the war on the Peninsula for the independence of Europe.

Nothing, therefore, of very great consequence occurred till the month of March—if we except the predal incursions of the enemy stationed at Malden, aided by a few traitors, on the inhabitants of the Western and London districts ; in consequence of which a general order was issued for the Royal Scots and 89th light companies and a company of Kent militia under Captain Mc. Grigor, the whole detachment under the command of Captain Stewart, of the Royal Scots, amounting to about one hundred and seventy, to take up a position at Delaware Town, on the River Thames. Here, for a few weeks, the detachment remained unmolested;

and from the tranquil appearance which the whole country presented, it was conceived unnecessary longer to detain the militia on duty, they were therefore ordered home.

The militia had proceeded but a short distance on their route homeward, before they discovered a large column of the enemy fortifying a commanding position on the road leading through the Long Woods. The two light companies at Delaware Town, together with Captain Mc. Grigor's militia who formed the advance guard, on the morning of the 4th of March. commenced a zre reli through a trackless desert towards the enemy*. During the day, the advance had several desultory skirmishes with the enemy's reconnoitering parties, which together with the great depth of snow tended very much to retard the progress of the troops ; it was therefore nearly sunset before they came up with the main body of the enemy, who had strongly fortified themselves on the summit of a very steep hill, by a stockade work raised breast high, about twenty-two miles from Delaware Town.

Captain Mc. Grigor's militia was ordered to move round and engage the enemy on his left, while the two companies of regulars engaged him in front : a line was formed under a most destructive fire from the enemy's breastworks. The hill upon which the enemy had taken up his position actually at this moment presented the appearance of a volcano belching forth cataracts of streaming fire and columns of smoke ; the air was filled with one continued roar of musketry, resembling the rolling of a thousand drums ; and as if to add a more

*A more efficient advance for that service could scarcely have been selected from the whole force in Upper Canada, than this handful of militia, led by that gallant veteran Mc. Grigor.

terrific grandeur to the scene, the sun shot forth a few partial rays, through a dense forest, on the conflicting parties, many of whom were not permitted to see his last ray that evening.

The night was now fast approaching ; it was therefore determined to charge the enemy in his works, for which service the Royal Scots Light company was ordered; and for the purpose of which, the road being exceedingly narrow, it was formed into an open column of sections right in front, in which order it proceeded down the hill in double quick time: but in attempting to ascend the hill on which the enemy was posted, it was discovered to have been rendered one solid sheet of ice by previously throwing on it a quantity of water, and again covering the deception with snow ; every effort, therefore, to ascend the hill became completely ineffectual ; and, what rendered the circumstance particularly mortifying, Captain Mc. Grigor perceiving the company advancing to the charge in the most fearless and undaunted manner, with a view to co-operate, led his company up to the left of the enemy's works, and was on the point of effecting an escalade, but unfortunately for want of timely assistance, was once more repulsed.

In this short but sanguinary engagement, every officer, except one, and nearly every noncommissioned officer, with an immense number of rank and file or the British forces, were either killed or wounded ; and all who could not escape out of the ravine were made prisoners of war, though the enemy retreated that same night about nine o'clock, taking with him only a few prisoners that were able to ride on horseback, behind his mounted riflemen. The American strength was between four and five hundred. most of whom were Kentucky volunteers.

Nothing particular transpired on the frontiers after this, until the beginning of July, if we except a descent which was made upon Odeltown in the month of March, by a division of General Wilkinson's army stationed at Plattsburgh ; but who were, by the determined barver of the troops composing the garrison at that post, under the command of Major Hancock, driven back, and with a considerable loss, to the besiegers.

Early on the morning of the 3d of July, an American army under the command of Major General Brown, consisting of about seven thousand men, invaded Canada, crossing the lines opposite to Black Rock, on the Niagara frontier, whence they immediately advanced on Fort Erie, the garrison of which consisted of one hundred and thirty-seven of the 8th or King's Regiment, commanded by Major Buck of the same corps. General Brown, commander in chief of the invading army, immediately summoned the garrison to surrender, with which summons the commandant complied without resistance.

The American general, flushed with a success so unusual lately to the arms of the United States, advanced his array down the Niagara River, towards the British post at the mouth of the Chippawa or Welland River, at which place, General Riall, commanding the British army on the Niagara frontier at that period, determined to give him a check until farther assistance should arrive; for which purpose he concentrated his little force at that place, consisting of five companies of the Royal Scots, a part of the 8th or King's Regiment, a part of the 100th

Regiment, and the 2d Lincoln militia, amounting in all to about fifteen hundred men*.

On the approach of the American army next day towards Chippawa, a detachment composed of one troop of the 19th Light Dragoons commanded by Major Lisle, the Light Infantry company of the Royal Scots and a small detachment of the King's Regiment, with two brass field pieces, twenty-four pounders, was directed to move out in the direction of the enemy in order to reconnoitre his force and ascertain its strength.

The enemy's advance was discovered about two miles above the mouth of the Chippawa River ; a few shots were exchanged, after which a strong column of the enemy issued from the woods (where they had previously taken shelter,) with a view to charge and capture the guns ; but a charge from the cavalry drove them to their former retreat, in precipitation and dismay.

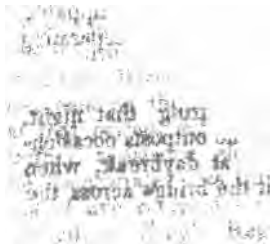
After the purposes of the reconnoitering party were as far accomplished as existing circumstances would admit, it retired in rear of the works at Chippawa, at the same time cutting away the bridge separating the two armies.

Thus lay the contending forces during that night, within pistol shot of each other—the outposts occasionally skirmishing, which increased at daybreak, when Major General Riall ordered that the bridge across the

*five companies of the Royal Scots were left to garrison Fort George and Mississagua, and part of the 100th to garrison Fort Niagara ; part of the 8th or King's were captured in Fort Erie.

Chippawa should again be repaired, (resolving, notwithstanding the great disparity of force, to meet his antagonist in the field,) which was so far completed as to render it passable for the army by three o'clock in the afternoon.

The British army now prepared to move out to meet the enemy, who had strongly posted his line on the plain, about a mile and a quarter above Chippawa—the right of which, commanded by General Scott, rested on the Niagara River, supported by a park of artillery under Captain Towson ; the left, composed of the New York and Pennsylvania volunteers under General Porter, rested on the woods, supported in front by a large body of riflemen and Indians ; and a strong brigade **in rear, under General Ripley, as a reserve.**



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CHAPTER XXIX.

Engagement on the Plains of Chippawa—The Advance of the British, under Colonel Pearson, moves out and engages the Enemy's Out-posts—Main Bodies of the two Armies advance to Battle—The British retire in Rear of their Works at Chippawa—Attempts of the American Army to cross the River Welland—Retreat of the British Army to Fort George—General Brown moves down and invests that Fort—General Riall moves out of Fort George with Part of his Force—Both Armies reinforced—General Brown retreats on Chippawa.

THE advance guard of the British, composed of the light companies of the Royal Scots, the 8th or King's Regiment, the 100th Regiment and the Lincoln Militia accompanied by a few Indian warriors, the whole commanded by Colonel Pearson,) advanced towards the plains with a view to draw the enemy into action, the militia and Indians occupying the woods ; when, about half past three o'clock, they were sharply engaged with the enemy's riflemen and Indians, who at first checked their advance, and even, for a time, compelled them to retire, until the light troops of the regulars were brought up to their support, at which the enemy fled in all directions.

By this time, the main body of the British army was formed in line, which, when compared with that of the enemy, presented more the appearance of the wing of a regiment than an opposing army. The line was composed

't At this crisis of the action, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Dickson, of the 2d Lincoln Militia, was wounded, after which the command of that corps devolved on Major David Secord.

of four companies of the Royal Scots, on the right, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Gordon, (the light company of which was acting in the advance,) the 8th or King's Regiment on the left, and the 100th or Prince Regent's Regiment in the centre, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel the Marquis of Tweeddale ; the left of the line, supported by two pieces of field ordnance, twenty-four pounders, planted on the margin of the river.

The armies, being thus arranged, commenced the conflict ; a steady fire from both sides was for some time maintained ; when the King's Regiment was ordered to the right of the line, and the Royal Scots and 100th Regiment were directed to charge the enemy's crest, which was gallantly received by two regiments of General Scot's brigade which moved forward for that purpose ; after which the fire re-commenced with redoubled fury, while the artillery was literally making lanes through the columns; but the explosion of a British ammunition wagon so materially injured one of the guns as completely to silence it ; and the increasing fire which the enemy was enabled to maintain, in consequence of his line continually filling up from the reserve, was making such a visible impression on the British ranks, that General Riall found himself no longer able to sustain the fight against a force so unequal in numerical strength, and gave orders to abandon the field ; the troops, therefore, retired in rear of the works at Chippawa, destroying the bridge they had previously repaired across that river.

The loss on both sides might be said to be nearly equal, amounting to four or five hundred. Lieutenant Colonel the Marquis of Tweeddale and Lieutenant Colonel Gordon were amongst the wounded. The 2d Lincoln Militia, under Major David Secord, distinguished themselves in this action by feats of genuine bravery

end heroism, stimulated by the example of their gallant leader, which are seldom surpassed even by the most experienced veterans. Their loss was proportionate with that of the regular army.

Three or four days subsequent to the sanguinary conflict on the plains at Chippewa, were mostly employed by the enemy in burying their own dead and burning those of the British ; after which, several ineffectual efforts were made by General Brown to cross the Welland River, contemplating an advance on Fort George ; but, at each of his attempts, he was promptly met by piquet guards of the British posted along the margin of the river for that purpose.

General Riall, however, in a few days, gave orders that the remnant of his army should retire under the shelter of Fort George and Mississagua, until reinforcements could be collected to place him on more equal ground with the enemy ; after which, General Brown moved his army towards those posts within a mile and a half of the British—his army forming a crescent, his right resting on the Niagara River, his left on Lake Ontario.

The American army had no sooner taken up a position in front of Fort George, than their foraging parties, or rather marauders, commenced a systematic course of plunder upon the defenceless inhabitants within the vicinity of their camp, most of whom, at the time, consisted of women and children : even amongst the general officers were acts of pillage perpetrated, that, had such occurred with private soldiers in the British army, would have stamped a stigma on the character of the British, in the eyes of America, for which no course

of conduct which they could ever after have pursued would have sufficiently atoned.

The most unwearied vigilance had been exercised by the American General to watch every avenue by which any part of the British might possibly escape from the position within the works ; yet, notwithstanding all the care and vigilance practised by General Brown and the forces under his command, General Riall contrived to march a part of his little army, a few ammunition wagons and two six pounders, field pieces, under night and unperceived, through his lines to a rendezvous for reinforcements at the 12 and 20 mile creeks.

During the interval in which General Riall was receiving reinforcements from York and other military posts on that side of Lake Ontario, General Brown also received a strong reinforcement under General Izard,

¶ General S. of the New-York militia, who had joined the army in Canada, under General Brown, appeared, under night, with about two hundred mounted men, before a small farm house in the vicinity of Fort George, where a wealthy farmer, whose residence was on the bank of the Niagara River, had sent the female part of his family with the most valuable part of his goods, as a place of safety, the house being surrounded with woods. The General took possession of the goods and divided with his followers, reserving for himself a set of silver spoons, a great coat sufficiently large to fit over his own, with as much of a chest of tea as he could conveniently carry in a flannel shirt sewed up at one end for that purpose. With these the gallant general marched off in quest of other "deeds of martial glory." He next met a young man of the name of Thompson, whom he made a prisoner, and from whom he took a silver watch; but approaching too near the British pickets, in an encounter, he was mortally wounded. The young man from whom he had taken the watch was then commanded to pilot them to a place of safety, where the general's wound could be attended to : he very naturally conducted them to his father's house, where the general died, and the next officer in command restored the watch to the young man from whom it was taken.

after which he made a few ineffectual assaults on Fort George ; but, finding all his efforts to carry that fort fruitless, and the British army receiving fresh acquisitions of strength, all seemed to conspire to render the case of General Brown entirely hopeless.

General Brown now perceiving the situation in which he was placed—the forts in his front to him completely impregnable, and an army in his rear in full flow of spirits and every day gathering new strength, (though by no means equal to his as regarded numbers,) a Canadian militia, unexpectedly to him, fervent beyond a parallel in the cause of their king and country—began now to think of a safe retreat, in pursuance of which, on the morning of the 25th July, he commenced his retrograde.

General Brown's movements, however, were too closely watched to permit him to escape unnoticed. Scarcely had the conception of a retreat matured itself into a purpose in the mind of the American General, ere it had unfolded itself to the penetrating eye of General Sir Gordon Drummond, who had that day arrived on the Niagara frontier, and preparations were immediately made to intercept him.



CHAPTER XXX.

General Brown meditates a Retreat—Ire is intercepted by a Part of the British Army at Lundy's Lane—&—re-re CanteA for the Advantage of that Position—British Reinforcements arrive—The Armies close to a general Action—The Engagement assumes a sonavi-nary Aspect—Loss sustained on both Sides—Remarks.

Tun British army, at the time General Brown commenced his retreat, was scattered in small cantonments over twenty or thirty miles of country ; but, like a well ordered and systematic machine, every part was in a moment simultaneously in motion, to concentrate their united strength at a point where they would be likely to intercept the enemy.

Detachments of the Royal Scots and 41st regiments and a small body of Indians, amounting in all to about five hundred men, under the command of Colonel Tucker, (supported on the river by a party of seamen and marines, under the direction of Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy,) passed over to the American side of the River Niagara, with a view to disperse or capture a body of the enemy stationed at Lewiston. The object of this movement being accomplished, the troops were again withdrawn, 4 Queenston. The 41st and 100th regiments, under Colonel Tucker, were sent back to garrison Fort George, Mississauga and Niagara : General Drummond moving on towards the Falls, with a force of about eight hundred strong consisting of detachments of the Royal Scots, 89th and King's, with the light company of the 1st Regiment, to join General Riall's division of the army as soon as it should arrive from the several bivouacs at which it had been stationed.

As soon as the column of the British army under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Morrison had arrived at the rising ground near the end of Lundy's Lane, on the main road leading from Queenston to Chippawa, the enemy was just taking possession of that position. Without a moment's delay, the troops which had arrived on the ground were formed in line on the north-east side of the height, their left resting on the Queenston road, and the conflict commenced.

The troops from the Twelve and Twenty Mile creeks together with a detachment of the King's Regiment, as they arrived, were formed on *each* side of Lundy's Lane. This line was supported in front by two twenty-four pounders, [field guns,] which were covered by a small squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons and a detachment of infantry.

The British line being thus disposed, notwithstanding the superior strength of the enemy, in about ten minutes dislodged him from the position he had first taken at the point of the bayonet. The sun was now fast descending towards the western horizon ; and detachments of the 1st and 2d Lincoln militia continued to arrive from the different out-posts they had been occupying, who joined in maintaining the summit of the hill until the whole of General Riall's division should come up.

General Drummond, after dislodging the enemy from the partial possession he had gained on the hill, again formed his line with as much despatch as existing circumstances would admit, placing his artillery which consisted of two twenty-four pounders, two six pounders [brass field pieces,] and a rocket party, in front of the centre of his position, near the right side of Lundy's lane leading down the hill to the Queenston road, supported by the second battalion of the 89th Regiment under Colonel Morrison. Scarcely had this arrangement of the British forces been completed, before the position