

as Mr. Thomson says, was so "generally repro-
bated." This editor is not satisfied with having,
as he supposes, freed colonel Campbell from
blame : in order to enable him to expatiate upon
that sickening subject, American humanity, he
must reproach Us. To high-minded Americans
it could not fail to appear as a very dastardly act,
for 70 or 80 dragoons to retreat before 500 infan-
try. The British having, however, "abandoned
the women and children," we shall now present
a specimen of the "humane treatment," which
the latter "experienced from the Americans."
Not only did colonel Campbell, and his 500 re-
gulars, lay waste as much of the surrounding
country as came within their reach, and pilfer
and carry off as much private property as was
easily portable, but they set fire to the whole
of the little village of Dover, comprizing the
following 46 buildings : one saw-mill, one tan-
house, three distilleries, six stores, 13 barns,
three grist-mills, and 19 dwelling-houses ; thus
utterly ruining 25 "peaceable" families. Yet
was all this no more than an "error" on the
part of the American commander by whose
orders it had been perpetrated.

CHAPTER XIV.

*Serious preparations for the fifth invasion of the
Canadas—American force on the Niagara fron-
tier—British force in the same neighbourhood—
Disembarkation of major-general Brown's army
— Capture of Fort-Erie, together with its
small garrison—British force at Chippeway
— Advance of the American army—Battle of
Chippeway, or Street's creek—Retreat of major-
general Riall—Return of the Americans to their
camp—Fresh movement against the British at
Chippeway—Further retreat of the latter to
Fort-George—Advance of the Americans to
Queenstown—Spirited behaviour of a British
patrolling party—General Brown's plans deve-
loped—General Riall's departure from Fort-
George to the Twenty, and Fifteen-mile, creeks—
American reconnoissance before Fort-George
— Wanton conflagration of the village of
St. David—Investment of Fort-George—Re-
treat of the Americans to Queenstown—De-
struction of their baggage, and further retreat to
Chippeway—Corresponding advance of major-
general Riall's light troops—Re-advance of the
Americans towards Queenstown — Skirmishing
between the adverse piquets—Arrival of lieute-
nant-general Drummond with a reinforcement—
Detachment sent across to Lewistown—General*

Drummond's junction with general Malt - Battle of Niagara, or Lundy's lane—Retreat of the Americans to Chippewa!! and Street's creek —Their destruction, of Street's mills, and of their own baggage, camp-equipage and stores—Their further retreat to Fort-Erie—Various American accounts of these operations—Their gross mis-statements corrected.

EARLY in April major-general Brown, with a strong force in regulars, marched, a second time, from Sackett's Harbor to Batavia ; and thence to Buffalo, where he fixed his head-quarters. Here he remained drilling his troops, and receiving occasional reinforcements, till the middle of June ; when he received orders, " to carry Fort-Erie, and beat up- the enemy's quarters at Chippeway ; but," adds the American secretary at war, " in case his fleet gets -the control of Lake Ontario, you are immediately to re-cross the strait." This late commencement of the campaign arose, no doubt, from the backwardness of commodore Chauncey to decide the ascendancy upon Lake Ontario ; without which the objects of the American government could be only partially fulfilled.

It took major-general Brown from the 15th of June to the 2d of July, to prepare himself for crossing the Niagara ; which, according to the "General Order" It issued upon the occasion, he

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 644. ■ App. No.25,

Was then about to do, with two brigades of infantry, a corps of artillery ; and a body of volunteers. As far as we can gather from the American accounts, one brigade consisted of the 9th, 11th, 22d, and 25th regiments, under brigadier-general Scott ; the other, of the 17th, 19th, 21st, and 2:3d :regiments, under brigadier-general Ripley ; the two united brigades numbering 2580 rank and file. The corps of artillery consisted of upwards of 400 men, having in charge eight field-pieces ; and one or two howitzers ; including, among the former, several 18 and 12-pounders, There was, also, a squadron of dragoons, under captain Harris ; which we may estimate at 70 men. To this regular force of 3050 rank and file, were added from 8 to 1100 (say 900) New York, Pennsylvania, and" Canadian" (or traitor) *volunteers.; and about 150 Indians ; makings total farce of 4100 rank and file, Besides this force, there -were, at different posts between Erie anti Lewistown, . the 1st regiment of infantry, a regular rifle corps, and from 2 to 300 volunteers, - under a colonel Swift ; making an aggregate of, at least, 5000 men: But even this %Ember does not include the militia of the district, who, in case of invasion, could assemble to the amount of 2 or 3000 ; not 3 or 4000 regulars, whom commodore Chauncey, if disposed to be bold, might bring down from Sackett's harbor. • So that the command of Lake

Ontario could very speedily augment the American force upon the Niagara to 10000 men. '11

The British force upon the same frontier was, at this time, under the command of major-general Riall, and consisted of the royal Scots, (1st bat.) 100th, and 103d regiments, a troop of the 19th light dragoons, and a detachment of artillery; numbering, altogether, about 1780 rank and file. But out of this force were garrisoned the forts Erie, George, Mississaga, and Niagara ; (the latter on the American side of the strait ;) also the post upon Burlington Heights ; comprehending an extent of frontier of full 70 miles.

On the morning of the 3d of July, general Brown's army crossed the strait, in two divisions; one division landing about a mile and a half below, the other about the same distance above, Fort-Erie ; against which the American troops immediately marched. Having planted a battery of 18-pounders in a good position in front of the fort, and fired, and received in return, a few shots; by which a loss was sustained, on our part, of one man killed, and, on the part of the Americans, of four men of the 25th regiment wounded, major-general Brown summoned the fort to surrender. Fort-Erie was, at this time, garrisoned by two companies of the 8th and 100th regiments, and a small detachment of artillery, under major Buck, of the 8th ; and,

in respect to armament or means of **resistance**, was, as an American general says, " in a defenceless condition." Tire fort, consequently, surrendered. The prisoners, 170, including officers of all ranks, were taken across the river, to be marched into the interior of New York ; and a small detachment of American artillery, under lieutenant Macdonough; placed as a garrison within the captured fort : in front of which, on the lake, were stationed, as a further security, three armed schooners, under the orders of lieutenant-commandant Kennedy, of the United States' navy.

The British force at Chippeway was under the immediate command of lieutenant-colonel Pearson ; and consisted of 230 of the royal Scots, 450 of the 100th regiment, a troop of light dragoons, and a small detachment of artillery, amounting, in all, to 760 rank and file ; exclusive of 300 sedentary militia, just assembled at the rendezvous, and about the same number of Indians. The first intelligence of the landing of the invading army reached major-general Riall at Chippeway, at about eight o'clock on the same morning; and he immediately ordered that post to be reinforced by five companies of the royal Scots ; but even then, his inferiority of force forbad any other movement, than for the purpose of reconnoitring the enemy's position

* Wilkinson's Mein. Vol. I. p. 647.

and numbers. This service was gallantly performed by lieutenant-colonel Pearson, at the head of the flank companies of the 100th regiment, and a few militia and Indians ; and the Americans were seen posted on an eminence, near the ferry at Bertie.* Major-general Mall would have Commenced the attack on that evening, had he been joined by 'The 8th regiment, then hourly expected from York.

- On the morning of •the 4th, general Scott's brigade, with a company of artillery, advanced, by the main road along the margin of the river, towards Chippeway ; and was soon afterwards followed by general Ripley's brigade, and the field and park artillery, under major Hindman; also ,by general Porter and his volunteers.t On its approach to Street's creek, the first brigade encountered the British advance, now consisting of the light companies of the royal Scots and 100th regiments, and a subaltern's detachment of the 19th light dragoons. General Scott immediately detached in front captain Towson's conopany of artillery, (100 strong,) with three 18-pounders ; and, at the same time, directed a flank company of the 9th regiment of infantry to march out to the left of the brigade, and cross the creek above the bridge ; so as to assail the right of the British advance. The heavy firing of the enemy's 18-pounders, and

* See Vol. I. p. 50. 1 Sketches of the War, p. 274.

the close approach of his main body, compelled colonel Pearson and his small party, to retreat ; but "not until they had intrepidly destroyed the bridge over which the advancing column would be obliged to pass."* Captain Crooker's-company of the 9th regiment came suddenly upon the detachment of dragoons, under lieutenant Horton, while the latter was covering colonel Pearson's retreat. A skirmish ensued, and the American detachment, . which had retreated to a house, would have certainly been captured, but for the arrival of a strong reinforcement, under captains Hull and Harrison, god lieutenant Randolph. Out of this skirmish, in which four of the dragoons, and eight of their horses, were wounded, Mr. Thomson has woven a fine story ; concluding it with the declaration of one of the American generals, that, " in pare tizan war, he had witnessed nothing more gal. lant than the conduct of captain Crooker and his company."* The American pioneers having repaired the bridge, the army crossed ; and, at about 11 o'clock -on that night, encamped on the right bank of Street's creek ; the first brigade facing the creek and the bridge; the second brigade forming the second line ; and the volun, teers, the third. The park of artillery was sta, tioned on the right of the encampment, resting on some buildings and an orchard, close to the

* Sketches of the War, p. 274.

river Niagara ; and the light troops, or riflemen, together with the Indians, were posted within the same space, on the left, resting on the woods.

The American army, thus encamped, will only differ in numbers from that which crossed the strait,* in the absence of the small garrison, say 50 men, left at Fort-Erie, under lieutenant Macdonough. Consequently, major-general Brown had, under his immediate command at Street's creek, 3000 regulars, (including 70 dragoons,) 900 New York, Pennsylvania, and Canadian volunteers, and 150 Indians ; total, 4050 Men ; along with nine field-pieces and howitzers, including some 12, and three 18-pounders.

Major-general Riall had stationed himself on the left bank of the Chippeway, distant about 14 miles from the American encampment ; and, having been joined, on the morning of the 5th, by 480 rank and file of the 8th regiment, determined to attack the Americans on that afternoon. His force now consisted of "1530 regulars, (including about 70 dragoons,) 300 sedentary militia, j' and about the same number of Indians ; total, 2130 men ; along with two 24-pounders, and a 52 inch howitzer.

At the appointed hour the British crossed the Chippeway, and marched to the attack ; the Indians, and a part of the militia, advancing

* Sec p. 116.

-I- Only partially armed.

through the woods on the right, which were skirted by the remainder of the militia, and by the light companies of the royal Scots and 100th regiments, under lieutenant-colonel Pearson. The approach of the Indians being discovered by the Americans, general Porter, with the whole of his volunteers and Indians, supported by a detachment of 80 men from the second brigade, under captain W. Macdonald, was ordered to advance from the rear, and drive them hack. About 220 of our Indians, led by Norton, had kept too much to the right, and were wholly out of the action. The remaining 80, consisting chiefly of Wyandots, led by captain Kerr, on being encountered by general Porter's brigade, fell back, first, upon the militia, and then, along with the latter, upon colonel Pearson's detachment of regulars. A spirited action now ensued ; bUt a few well-directed volleys from the British presently reversed the order of things ; and general Porter's brigade of volunteers and Indians gave way, and " fled in every direction." So said general Brown.* But general Porter himself says :—" The action of Chippeway, in which the volunteers took so conspicuous a part, will ever be remembered, to the honor of the American arms. It was commenced by 800 Pennsylvania volunteers and Indian warriors, who met about the same number of British

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 658.

militia and Indians, overthrew and drove them behind the main line of the British army; destroying, at least, 150, and annihilating, it is believed, this description of the enemy's force."*

The reader may well conceive, what a paragraph can be made out of this modest eulogium, by an American editor; and who so able as Mr. Thomson is!—Thus, then, says the latter:—"General Porter met, attacked, and, after a short but severe contest, drove the enemy's right before him. His route to Chippeway was intercepted by the whole British column, arrayed in order of battle; and against this powerful force the volunteers desperately maintained their ground; until they were overpowered by the superiority of discipline and numbers."† Not only does major-general Riall's despatch shew, clearly, that Mr. Thomson's "whole British column" consisted of "the light troops,"‡ under colonel Pearson; but general Wilkinson himself is compelled to admit, that his friend, general Porter, "surprised a body of Indians, who appeared to be in consultation, and immediately gave way; but, keeping up a brisk skirmish, retreated to where they were strongly reinforced by the enemy's troops," (called "irregulars" in the very next paragraph,) "who, in

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 658.

† Sketches of the War, p. 277: . t. App. No. 26.

turn, forced Porter to retreat." In this way do we expose a "general Porter," as completely as we trust, we formerly did a "commodore" or captain, of the same name, and, it seems likely, of the same family too.

Colonel Pearson, with his light troops, militia, and Indians, pursued general Porter's brigade of volunteers and Indians, and captain Macdonald's 80 regulars; till the arrival of a strong reinforcement from general Ripley's brigade, including the whole of the 25th regiment, obliged the British advance to fall back, in its turn. While this skirmishing was going on upon the right of the British line, major-general Riall had drawn up his troops before the enemy's position; placing the 8th regiment, and the two light 24-pounders and howitzer, upon the left, and the royal Scots and 100th regiments, directly in front. The enemy had posted his artillery upon the right of his line; which consisted of the 1st, or general Scott's brigade, and a portion of the 2d, or general Ripley's brigade: another portion had been detached in support of the 3d, or general Porter's brigade of volunteers.

The royal Scots and 100th regiments were ordered to charge the enemy's column. The ground over which they had to pass was uneven, and covered with long grass, which greatly impeded their progress. It was not, however;—

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 651.
James's Nay. Occur. p. 305-20.

till the enemy's musketry, and a flanking fire from four pieces of his artillery, had caused a serious loss of killed and wounded in the ranks of these brave regiments, that the attempt was given up. Any further contest with a force so superior in numbers being considered as unavailing, the British troops were directed to retire upon Chippeway. This they did in the most perfect order; bringing away, among their guns, a piece that had been disabled, and losing in prisoners none but the wounded. So gallantly was the retreat covered by the 8th regiment and colonel Pearson's light detachment, that the Americans were deterred from advancing with sufficient promptitude, to hinder the British from destroying the bridge across the Chippeway; on the left bank of which, major-general Riall again encamped. This the American general calls being "closely pressed."

The British loss in the battle of Street's creek was very severe. The killed amounted to three captains, three subalterns, seven serjeants, and 133 rank and file; the wounded, to three field-officers, (including the commanding officers of the royal Scots and 100th regiments,) five captains, 18 subalterns, 18 serjeants, and 277 rank and file; and the missing, to one subaltern, one serjeant, and 44 rank and file; total, 148 killed; 321 wounded; and 46 missing: grand total, (including 433 of the two

* App. No. 28.

before-mentioned regiments,) 515.* The royal Scots were now reduced, in effective strength, to 275, the 100th, to 245, and general Riall's whole force, of regulars, militia, and Indians, to under 1520, rank and file. The loss of the Americans, in the same battle, amounted to two serjeants, and 58 rank and file, killed; one colonel, three captains, seven subalterns, 14 serjeants, and 210 rank and file, wounded; and one lieutenant-colonel, one major, one captain, (all of militia,) two serjeants, and 22 rank file, missing; total, 60 killed; 235 wounded; and 27 missing; grand total, 322:* thus leaving general Brown a force of full 3730 men.

Considering that the firing between the main bodies of the two armies did not continue beyond an hour and a half, and that the 8th regiment, from the nature of its position, participated very slightly in the engagement, the loss on both sides is a proof of the spirit with which it was contested. It is rather extraordinary, that not one of our three historians should have thought fit to state numbers on either side; yet do they all concur in declaring, that the numerical superiority was in our favor, Mr. O'Connor's account not less for its conciseness than its gross extravagance, is worthy of insertion. "The American troops," says this writer, "on no occasion behaved with more gallantry than on the present. The British

App. No. 27.

+ App. No. 29.

regulars suffered defeat from a number of nieM principally volunteers and militia; — inferior in every thing but courage to the vanquished is the man whose title-page has the words : " Carefully compiled front official documents ;" and yet, who pretends to be igno- rant, that the " official" returns on his own side; particularize five regiments of regular infantry 'and a corps of artillery, as having suffered a loss in the action. Even general Wilkinson, so cautious in these matters, states the effective strength of general Scott's brigade, alone, at 1100 regular infantry,t and the force that crossed the strait under general Brown, at about 3500 inen,t, including about 2700 regulars. §

We will readily admit that, in this battle : the Americans fought with more bravery and determination, than they had done since the war commenced. 1\o opportunity, however; occurred, of employing the bayonet to any advantage ; and our troops had to resort to nuts. ketry ; "in which," says general Wilkinson, " the American soldier, from habits of early life, will always excel." 11 The general adds : " Comparing small with great things, here, as at Minden, the fate of the day was settled by the artillery ; and the American Towson may de.. servedly be ranked with the British Philips

* Hist. of the War, p. 254;

Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 654.

Ibid. p. 646. § Ibid. 668. || Ibid. 6b%

Drummond, and Foy." * Poor general Wil- kinson's comparisons are the most amusing part of his book. Without elevating " the American Towson" to quite so lofty a station, we may observe, that the Americans deserve great credit for the attention they pay to their artillery ; which is, in general, fully as well served as our own, and, excepting the accidental circum- stance of our having two 24-pounders in this action, of much heavier caliber.

The readiness of the Americans to engage, at the battle of Street's creek, appears to have ori- ginated in mis-information. From the prisoners taken at Fort-Erie general Brown learned, that major-general Riall's regular force at Chippeway consisted solely of the first battalion of the royal Scots, and the 100th regiment ; and consequent) y, of not more than 11 or 1200 men. The American commander, therefore, with his 3000 " accom- plished troops," j- advanced boldly to the attack. This is confirmed by Mr. Thomson ; who, not only mentions no other than the above two regi- ments as present, but states, that lieutenant- general Drummond ordered up " the 8th or king's regiment from York," in consequence of " the defeat of major-general Riall."T

On the other hand, intelligence reached the British, — probably through emissaries, or

* Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 652.

App; No. 28.

Sketches of the War, p. 280:

spies, purposely sent from the American camp, —that general Brown's force exceeded 5000 men; and major-general Riall himself, from the report of the American militia-officers, taken prisoners at the commencement of the action, considered the enemy's force to amount to " 6000 men, with a very numerous train of artillery!" We here see a striking difference in the impression respecting his adversary's strength, under which each of the generals led his troops into battle.

During the 6th and 7th of July, general Brown remained quiet at his encampment on the bank of Street's creek ; but, on the morning of the 8th, he determined upon an attempt to dislodge major-general Riall, who was still stationed at Chippeway. To effect this object, general Ripley proceeded, with his brigade and the artillery, to a point on the right bank of the Chippeway, three miles above the British camp, in order to open a road of communication, and to construct a bridge across the river, or creek, for the passage of the troops. After the Americans had planted their artillery on the bank, a detachment of general Riall's artillery arrived in front ; but the latter, having now in charge two pieces only, was obliged, after a slight cannonade, to withdraw. The bridge was soon afterwards completed ; and the whole of the

* App. No. 26.

American force crossed over. In the mean while, major-general Riall had broken up his encampment, and retired towards Queenstown and Fort-George ; at which latter place he arrived on that evening. During the same night, general Brown occupied Chippeway ; and, on the following morning, advanced to Queenstown ; where he again encamped.

On the 12th, while the Americans were at Queenstown, brigadier-general Swift was detached, with 120 (one American account says 200) of general Porter's volunteers,* to reconnoitre general Riall's position at Fort-George. On arriving near the fort, general Swift, with his detachment, came suddenly upon a corporal and five men, belonging to a patrolling party of 32 rank and file from the light company of the 8th, under major Evans of that regiment. One of the five privates levelled his piece at the American general ; and, after mortally wounding him, was himself shot dead: His five comrades now fell back upon the remaining 26 men of their detachment ; who, on the report of the first musket, had, with major Evans at their head, marched forward to the spot. The 31 British were instantly surrounded by their 120 opponents ; but the former, by their skill and promptitude, extricated themselves, without further loss from their perilous situation. Mr.

* Sketches of the War. p. 251.

Thomson, who is the only editor that notices the affair, magnifies our force to 60 men ; and then pretends that the man, after he had surrendered, shot general Swift, The truth is, from the hour that the Americans landed near Fort-, Erie, those inhabitants who " behaved peaceably and followed their private occupations,"* instead of being, as was promised by general Brown, in his proclamation to the Canadians, " treated as friends," were plundered of their property, and, in many instances, sent as prisoners to the American side. By way, therefore, of palliating the enormities known to have been committed by the American army in its progress through the country, Mr. Thomson prepares this account of general Swift's death ; adding :—" The whole volunteer brigade to which the general was attached, solicited an opportunity to avenge the fall of their brave officer: and an opportunity was not long wanted."†

While at his encampment at Queenstown,; general Brown writes commodore Chauncey, under date of the 13th July, to the following effect :—" All accounts agree that the force of the enemy in Kingston is very light. Meet me on the lake-shore, north of Fort-George, with your fleet ; and we will be able, I have no doubt, to settle a plan of operation that will break the power of the enemy in Upper. Canada, and that in the course of a short time. At all events, let

* App. No. 25, + Sketches of the War, p. 282.

me hear from you ; I have looked for your fleet with the greatest anxiety, since the 10th. I do not doubt my.. ability to meet the enemy in the field, and to march in any direction over his country ; your fleet carrying for me the necessary supplies. We can threaten forts George and Niagara, and carry Burlington-Heights and York ; and proceed direct to Kingston, and carry that place. For God's sake let me see you. Sir James will not fight. Two of his vessels are now in Niagara river. If you conclude to meet me at the head of the lake, and that immediately, have the goodness to bring the guns and troops that I have ordered from Sackett's Harbor.*

Commodore Chauncey, - knowing better than that sir James would not fight, was lying at Sackett's Harbor, awaiting the equipment of his second frigate, the Mohawk ; " to maintain," says an American editor, " the existing equality ;" but, in reality, to acquire that *one-third* superiority, without which it would not be prudent to appear on the lake.†

On the morning of the 9th, major-general Riall, leaving at the forts George and Mississaga, in lieu of the 350 rank and file of the Glengarry regiment, and of the 300 militia by whom he had

* Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 666.

† James's Naval Occurrences, p. 399.

II. Both recently arrived from York.

there been joined, detachments of the royal Scots, and 8th, and the remaining 245 of the 100th, regiments, proceeded, with a force in regulars and militia, amounting to about 1360 rank and file, towards Burlington heights ; where he expected to meet the 103d regiment, and the flank companies of the 104th, the latter of which had recently arrived there. This junction was fortunately effected at the Twenty-mile creek ; whence the major-general, with his force, now augmented to about 2000 regulars and militia, marched back to, and took post at, the Fifteen-mile creek, distant about 13 miles from the American camp.

Intelligence of this movement on the part of major-general Riall, unaccompanied, however, by any account of his having been joined by the 103d regiment, reached general Brown on the 14th, the day after he had called for commander Chauncey's co-operation. The British force, thus assembled, was stated to consist of one wing of the royal Scots, the 100th regiment, and the Glengarry light infantry ; amounting, in all, to 1250 men, besides 800 incorporated militia and Indians ; making a total of 2050 men.* We have here the total, though not the details, of the British force, as accurately stated as need be. Had the junction of the 103d regiment been known, we may well suppose that major-general Riall's force would have been

It Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 669.

swelled out to 3000 men ; but, although considered to be a third below that amount, no attack was to be made, without the sanction of a council of war. General Brown's force, on this occasion, " was estimated at 2700 regulars, and 1000 volunteers, militia, and Indians ;" which amounts, within 30 men, to what we stated to have been that officer's force, after the battle of Street's creek. At this council the minority was for attacking major-general Riall ; the majority, for investing Fort-George. Accordingly, on the 15th, general Ripley's brigade of regulars, and general Porter's brigade of volunteers, accompanied by a detachment of regular artillery, with a 6-pounder and a 52 inch howitzer, the whole numbering about 2200 rank and file, advanced to the neighbourhood of the British fort. While this strong body of American troops was reconnoitring the fortifications, lieutenant-colonel Tucker, with the detachment of the 8th regiment, and two 6-pounder field-pieces, moved out from Fort-Mississaga ; and, being joined by the few royals from Fort-George, and aided by the guns of that fort, compelled the Americans, in spite of their great superiority of numbers, to retire to a more respectable distance. Not a casualty occurred on our part.

Several slight skirmishes afterwards took place between the adverse piquets, in which the Americans were almost the only sufferers. The fur-

* Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 669.

death" ?* But that the Canadians had experienced, both in their persons and properties, so many flagrant violations of that " General Order," as to entitle it to be considered, unless, in its intended operation upon the public mind, as mere blank paper, we might suppose that the gallant colonel had saved himself, by the quibbling excuse, that he was not it " plunderer," but an incendiary. The most extraordinary thing is, however, that the American government, within seven weeks after the burning of St. David's, and when some apology for that, among other atrocities, was thought due to the representations made on our part, should say :—" For the burning of St. David's, committed by stragglers, the officer who commanded in that quarter was dismissed, without a trial, for not preventing it." Lieutenant-colonel Stone, then, was not " dismissed without a trial," because he " directed," but " for not preventing," the burning of the village ; nor was the act committed by the militia sent, under the orders of this very colonel, " to scour the country," but by " stragglers," under the orders of no one ; and this, although the American camp was only three miles off.

On the day succeeding the conflagration of St. David's, general Brown abandoned his

* App. No. '25.

+ Mr. Munro's letter to sir Alexander Cochrane, dated Sept. 6² 1814.

encampment at Queenstown, and concentrated his whole force in the neighbourhood of Fort-George ; stationing a part of it on the shore of Lake Ontario, to keep a sharp look-out for the arrival of commodore Chauncey's fleet, with the anxiously expected " guns and troops from Sackett's Harbor." After waiting in suspense from the 20th to the 23d, general Brown prepared to retrace his steps to Queenstown and Chippeway ; in order, as he says, to draw a supply of provisions **from** Schlosser, and then march directly to Burlington Heights.* American caution was never more conspicuous than in this retrograde movement of general Brown's. The fortifications of Fort-George were not in a better state than when general M'Clure, with a garrison of upwards of 2000, abandoned them to colonel Murray, with fewer than 500 men and now that fort was garrisoned by a smaller number than then besieged it, and was besieged by double the number that then composed its garrison. Yet major M'Farland, in his before-mentioned letter, assigns, as a reason for general Brown's retreat, that it would require " 6000 men, with a large train of battering artillery," to make any impression upon Fort-George. The Americans seem determined to remind us, as well of general M'Clures bloodless surrender of this same fort, as of

* App. No 32.

See p. 11.

Colonel Murray's gallant assault upon, and capture of, their own Fort-Niagara.

General Brown, with his army, entered Queenstown on the evening of the 23d ; and, on the next day, this American general, who had scarcely done boasting that he did not doubt his ability " to meet the eneiny in the field, and to march in any direction over his country," finding, by accounts from Sackett's Harbor, that the commodore was unable, or, rather, unwilling, to leave port, became so " apprehensive of an attack upon the rear of : his army,"* that he not only continued his retreat to Chippeway, but, to quicken his movements, disencumbered the army of its baggage. Having re-crossed the Chippeway, general Brown encamped on the right bank of that river, with the whole of his army, except the 9th regiment, which was posted on the left, or north bank, protected in front by a block-house. It ought not to be omitted, that the Americans, during their retreat to this place, plundered, and made prisoners of, several of the inhabitants.

Intelligence of general Brown's arrival at Chippeway reached general Riall, on the same afternoon ; and, at eleven o'clock that night, the British advance, consisting of the Glengarry regiment, under lieutenant-colonel Battersby; 40 men of the 104th, under lieutenant-colonel

* Sketches of the War, p. 283.

+ App. No. 32.

Drummond ; the incorporated militia, under lieutenant-colonel Robinson, and the sedentary militia, under lieutenant-colonel Parry, of the 103d ; major Lisle's troop of the 19th light dragoons, and a detachment of artillery, having in charge the two 24-pounders and howitzer employed at Street's creek, and three 6-pounders ; the whole numbering about 950 rank and file, and placed under the immediate command of lieutenant-colonel Pearson, moved from the Twelve-mile creek ; and, at seven o'clock the next morning, took up a position near Lundy's lane, leading into the main Queenstown, or Niagara road, and distant from the American encampment about 21- miles.

The American general, having received intelligence that the British had crossed over, in 'considerable numbers,' from Queenstown to Lewistown; and that the force near Lundy's lane was a mere patrolling party, determined, by way of causing a diversion, to re-occupy the former village. Accordingly, at about a quarter past five on the afternoon of the 25th, general Scott, at the head of his own brigade of regular infantry, Towson's artillery; with his two 18-pounders, " and all the dragoons and mounted men," numbering, as we gather from the American accounts, fully 1150 rank and file, marched towards Queenstown ; with

* App. No. 32.

special orders " to report if the enemy appeared, and to call for assistance, if that was necessary.*

On arriving at the falls, just two miles from camp, the advanced piquets commenced firing; and general Scott immediately despatched two or three officers in succession, to acquaint general Brown, that the enemy was in force, directly in his front ; although he confessed that a narrow wood intercepted that force from his view. As the enemy " was in force," it became " necessary" to send " assistance ;" therefore general Brown, who had been reinforced by 250 men of the 1st, and 100 men of the 22d regiments, just arrived in three schooners from Erie, taking with him generals Ripley's and Porter's brigades, and major. Hindman's corps of artillery, having in charge seven field-pieces, instantly " pressed forward with ardor."* In the mean while, some of the American officers, having heard at Mrs. Wilson's house, near the falls, and reported to general Scott, " that the enemy could not be in force," t that officer, with the first brigade, the artillery, and dragoons, " pressed forward with ardor," to attack the British advance. General Riall, who happened to be- with the latter, considering general Scott's detachment as merely the van of a force nearly four times superior to his own, ordered colonel

* App. No. 32.

+ Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. his App. No. 9,

Pearson to retire upon Queenstown ; and sent similar orders to colonel Scott, who, with the main body, was advancing from the Twelve-mile creek. We must now relate what caused a sudden change in the destination of the retreating British force.

As soon as intelligence of major-general Riall's discomfiture at Street's creek reached lieutenant-general Drummond. at Kingston, the latter, leaving orders for De Watteville's regiment to follow, in two columns, marched to York, with the remnant of the 2d battalion of the 89th regiment, about 400 strong, under lieutenant-colonel Morrison. On the evening of the 24th, the lieutenant-general and suite, with the 69th, embarked at York, on board sir James Yeo's vessels, the Netley, Charwell, Star, and Magnet ; and arrived at Fort-Niagara at day-light on the morning of the 25th. Having despatched to Queenstown the 89th regiment, and the detachments of the royal Scots and 8th which had been left by general Riall in the forts George and Mississaga, lieutenant-general Drummond ordered lieutenant-colonel Tucker to proceed up the right bank of the Niagara, with 300 of the 41st, about 200 of the royal Scots, and a body of Indians, supported on the river by a party of armed seamen, under captain Dobbs, of the Charwell brig, in order to disperse or capture an American force. Cu-

140 MILITARY OCCURRENCES BETWEEN

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camped at Lewistown. Some unavoidable delay occurred in the march of the troops up the right bank ; and colonel Swift, with his 200 volunteers, and whatever other troops belonged to the post, had effected their escape towards Schlosser, and crossed over to the American camp at Chippeway. • The British arrived in time only to take possession of about 100 tents, a quantity of baggage and provisions ; with which, at about four o'clock on the same afternoon, they crossed over to Queenstown, and there • met the detachment under lieutenant-colonel Morrison. After the troops had dined, lieutenant-general Drummond sent back, as garrisons to the three forts in the rear, 220 of the 41st, and the whole remaining strength of the 100th regiments, under the orders of lieutenant-colonel Tucker ; and hastened forward to the falls, with the 89th regiment, detachments of the royal Scots, and 8th, and the light company of the 41st regiments, numbering, altogether, 815 rank and file.

- No sooner had this seasonable reinforcement, after a rapid march of seven miles from Queenstown, ; and of 14 altogether, arrived within half a mile of Lundy's lane, than information was brought of the retreat of major-general Riall's advanced division ; and the troops had scarcely halted, ere they were joined by the militia which had formed part of it, and whose

retreat had been ably covered by the Glengarry regiment. General Drummond, first despatching an officer to recall colonel Scott, pushed forward to Lundy's lane ; where he arrived a few minutes before six o'clock, and just as the enemy had approached within 600 yards of the top of the hill. The British force was quickly formed ;-- the 80th regiment, the 320 men of the royal Scots, and the 41st light company, in the rear of the hill, with their left resting on the Queenstown, or Niagara road; the two 24-pounders a little in advance of the centre, on the summit of the hill ; the Glengarry regiment, in the woods on the right of the line ; and the militia, and the • 120 men of the 8th, on the left of the Niagara road, with the light dragoons, on the same road, a little in the rear : constituting a total of 1770 rank and file, supported by two 24-pounders, two 6-pounders, and a 51-inch howitzer. Scarcely had the different corps taken their stations, than the American troops, under the command of general Scott, commenced the attack. With the exception, however, of partially forcing back the left, the Americans could make no impression upon the British troops ; and, after nearly an hour's combat, retired behind a new line, formed by, generals Ripley's and Porter's brigades ; to the former of which the 1st regiment, under colonel Nicholas,* and to the latter', a fresh

* App. No. 32.

party of volunteers, had been attached did making the total force, under general Brown, upwards of 4000 men.

Finding the British guns upon the hill very destructive, the Americans made several desperate efforts to carry them. After being most gallantly resisted by the 89th, the detachments of the royal Scots and 8th regiments, and the sedentary militia under colonel Parry, the great numerical superiority, and, certainly, well-directed fire, of the American infantry and artillery, enabled them to gain their point. They had no leisure, however, to remove, or, at this time, to employ the captured pieces. The battle had now raged for three hours ; " the thickest and most impenetrable darkness prevailed ;" and both armies had suspended their fire ; one to collect and re-organize its " faltering" regiments ; the other to await the reinforcement momentarily expected from the Twelve-mile creek. Just at the hour of nine, colonel Scott, with the 103d regiment, detachments of the royal Scots, 8th, and 104th regiments, and about 300 sedentary militia, few of whom had muskets, accompanied by two 6 pounders, and numbering, altogether, 1230 rank and file, now came upon the ground. It had been intended that colonel Scott's division should march from the Twelve-mile creek, and the men were

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. his App. No. 9.

actually under arms, at three o'clock in the morning. Unfortunately, however, the order was countermanded, and the troops did not move till past mid-day. At about a quarter before six, and just as they had arrived within three miles of the field of battle, came general Riall's order for them to retire upon Queenstown ; and they had actually made a retrograde movement of nearly four miles, before they received general Drummond's order to re-advance. Having thus been nine hours on the march, the men were a good deal blown and fatigued, when they joined the contending division.

/ Owing to the extreme darkness of the night, the 103d regiment, and the sedentary militia, under colonel Hamilton, with the two field-pieces, passed, by mistake, into the centre of the American army, now posted upon the hill ; and, after sustaining a very heavy and destructive fire, fell back in confusion. The 103d, however, by the exertions of its officers, afterwards rallied ; and formed in line to the right of general Drummond's front column. Another disaster ensued from the darkness. The detachments of the royal Scots and 8th, forming part of the reinforcement, unfortunately mistook, for the enemy, the Glengarry regiment, stationed in the woods to the right ; and kept upon it a severe and destructive fire.

Under all these circumstances, 'general. Drummond derived but a partial benefit from colonel

Scott's reinforcement. In the meanwhile, the conflict, which had been renewed on the part of the Americans, owing to the supposed advantage gained over the British, in the repulse of the 103d regiment and militia, so peculiarly circumstanced, was assuming a more serious aspect than ever. They were now in possession of the crest of the hill, and of seven pieces of captured artillery ; which, in conjunction with their own, they turned against the British column. * On the other hand, the British, 'besides their inferiority of numbers, were without artillery, and bad to march up a steep hill, to regain the guns they had lost ; or even, as the Americans were too prudent to descend from their position, to give a decisive character to the contest. After a smart struggle, the British, not only regained their seven pieces of cannon, but captured a 6-pounder and a 5-1- inch howitzer, which major Hindman, of the American artillery, had brought up against them. Several determined, but vain efforts, were now made by the Americans, to repossess the hill ; and, at about half-past 11, they gave up the contest, and retreated to their camp; leaving, upon the field, the whole of their dead, and many of their wounded.

Major-general Riall, having been severely wounded at the early part of the action, was, with some other wounded officers and attendants, retiring to the rear to have his wounds

* Sketches of the War, p. 20X.

dressed, when he and his party were captured by the American 25th regiment, under colonel Jessup, and a detachment of cavalry ; which, in driving back the British left, had gained a momentary possession of the Niagara-road. At this time, also, captain Loring, one of general Drummond's aides de camp, and who was proceeding to the rear with orders, was also made prisoner.

The British loss in this action was, one captain, three subalterns, one deputy - assistant -adjutant-general, four serjeants, and 75 rank and file, killed ; one lieutenant-general, one major-general, one inspecting field-officer, one deputy-assistant-quarter-master-general, two lieutenant-colonels, eight captains, 25 subalterns, 31 serjeants, five drummers, and 482 rank and file, wounded ; one captain, three subalterns, two quarter-masters, 11 serjeants, five drummers, and 171 rank and file, missing and prisoners; one aide de camp, four captains, four subalterns, one quarter-master, four serjeants, and 28 rank and file, prisoners. **Total, 84 killed ; 559 wounded ; 193 missing ; and 42 prisoners :** grand total 878* The great use made by the Americans of buck-shot, while it swelled out the returns, occasioned most of the wounds to be very slight. That musket-cartridges, in the American service, are invariably made up with buck-shot, is acknowledged by general Wilkin-

son ; who, referring to the use of rifles in the dark. says :—" The musket and bayonet, with buck-shot, is preferable ; because, in nocturnal affairs, nothing decisive can take place, but at close quarters."—The British returns of loss show, as clearly, that the militia brought up with colonel Scott's division, and who, as already stated, were, for the most part, without arms, did not rally, after their surprise by the enemy, as that those, forming part of the advance, behaved in a distinguished manner. The few Indians present were of no use whatever.

According to the official returns at the foot of general Brown's letter, the American loss amounted to, one major, five captains, one adjutant, four subalterns, 10 serjeants, and 150 rank and file, killed ; one major-general, one brigadier-general, two aides de camp, one brigade-major, one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, four majors, seven captains, one adjutant, one pay-master, three quarter-masters, 32 subalterns, 36 serjeants, three musicians, and 478 rank and file, wounded ; and one brigade-major, one captain, six subalterns, nine serjeants, and 93 rank and file, missing. t Total, 171 killed ; 572 wounded ; and 110 missing : grand total 854. The loss, thus admitted by the Americans, was highly creditable to the skill and gallantry of the inferior numbers opposed to them. *But*

• Wilkinson's Mom. Vol. I. p. 538.

t App. No. 3S.

general Brown's loss has certainly been underrated ; for 210 dead, besides a great many wounded, Americans were counted upon the field of battle, on the following morning ; and, upon the subsequent advance of the British to Chipeway, they found a number of fresh graves, in which the bodies had been so slightly covered, that the arms and legs were, in many instances, exposed to view.

As first in order among the American accounts of this action, we will take general Brown's letter. In American official correspondence, this letter forms, in one respect, an anomaly : it no where mentions, that the Americans had superior numbers to contend with. What are we to infer from this, but that the reverse fact was too glaring to be questioned' The letter is certainly well written ; and the writer, we should suppose, gave the number of his own troops, at least, in this " memorable battle." Perhaps the paragraph, containing that information, was suppressed, by the order of the government. Such things, we know, have been frequently done ; and, did the number agree with what a writer from Buffaloe stated general Brown's force, in the Lundy's lane battle, to have amounted to, namely, " about 4000 men," the probability is encreased. The American commander begins his letter, with telling us of the " gallant men" he had the " good fortune to lead;" and yet freely confesses, that one regiment

" faltered," and another " gave way and re-treated." Upon the whole, however, the American troops fought bravely ; and the conduct of many of the officers, of the artillery corps especially, would have done honor to any service. Had general Brown's wounds allowed him to remain long enough on the field, he would have found that it was not the last British, but the last American .. effort," that had been " repulsed ;" and that it was after that last effort, " that the victory was complete." How are we to reconcile this confidence of " victory," with the order which colonel Hindman, of the artillery, received from general Brown, as the latter was retiring from the field, on his way to Butfaloe :--" Collect your, artillery, as well as you can, and retire immediately ; we shall all march to camp"? This . was deposed to at general Ripley's court-Martial. If the American troops, who had marched two miles to the field of battle, needed .. some refreshment," what must have been the state of the British troops, all of whom, except the advance, had marched 14 miles to the field of battle .?

Some parts of Mr. O'Connor's account are worth extracting :--" Wellington's *invincibles*," says 'he, " had just arrived from Europe, and Drummond resolved that they should not only maintain their character, but maintain it in a manner that would make the most desponding

* Wilkinson's Mem: VOL I. his App. No. 14.

impression on the brave, but raw recruits of the republic." ** *A , ine moon-light'night favored, equally, the operations of both armies.*"—This is excellent ; when all the American officers examined at general Ripley's court-martial, concur in the fact, that the night was unusually dark. "The Americans," proceeds this accurate gentleman, " could not be driven, nor withstood : determined not to be overthrown, even by superior numbers, they seemed resolved to crush whatever foe opposed them. Had they been conquered, they would yet deserve honor ; as victors, they covered themselves with glory." He attributes the loss of the "howitzer," to the high-spirited horses having run with it " into the ranks of the enemy." On the other hand, it was the " want of horses" that compelled the Americans to leave to us " *most* of the cannon which were taken." Here we discover, that Mr. O'Connor alludes to the British unlimbered 6-pounder, for which an American one had, by mistake, been placed upon a British limber. The British loss is made to amount to " between 1200 and 1300 men ;" and their " force engaged, by their own confession, 4500 men, mostly, or wholly regulars, besides a *host* of Indians • the American force," proceeds Mr. O'Connor, " did not exceed 2800; consisting, in a great proportion, of the militia of Pennsylvania and New York."* Yet, this writer, in the very next line,

* Hist. of the .. t: p: 257.. f App. No., 30,

refers to " general Brown's official letter ;" in which the militia-volunteers are stated at less than a third part of the American force in the field. And how came Mr. O'Connor to omit the honorable corps, styled, in the American returns,— " Canadian volunteers," t and commanded by the " gallant colonel Wilcocks;" whose traitorous acts, as the assistant of M'Clure, fell so heavy upon the inhabitants of Newark?

Mr. Thomson devotes 19 pages of his book to the battle of Lundy's lane. He describes the hour's action previous to the arrival of the whole of Ripley's and Porter's brigades, as fought between generals *Riall* and Scott ; although general Drummond, with his reinforcement, had been present from the commencement. Be evidently mistakes colonel Scott's, for general Drummond's arrival. This misnomer is of some use to us. Mr. Thomson, after stating that general Riall had despatched messengers to lieutenant-general Drummond at Fort-George, to inform him of -the desperate nature of the conflict," says

Until this period of the engagement," that is, until, in reality, colonel *Scott's* arrival, " his force, including the incorporated militia and some Indians, amounted to 1637 men."§ Mr. Thomson has here, by pure accident, stated nearly the amount of general Drummond's force,

∴ * Hist. of the United States, p. 257.
+ App. No. 33. I See p. 7.
§ Sketches of the War, p. 288. 1.

during the first three hours of the battle. He attends every regiment in its marches and counter-marches ; and makes a fine thing of the charges upon the artillery. Not trusting to language alone, he has given us a copper-plate representation. So far from the American line here resembling the - ." pot-hook" line, formed by " captain Clodpole's company" of Carolina militia, in Lambert's Travels,* Mr. Thomson's artist has employed his rule for the purpose ; and the line he has formed for Mr. O'Connor's " raw recruits," in this night of " impenetrable darkness," close in front of "a *host* of Wellington's invincihles," reminds us rather, of what we sometimes witness upon the parade in St. James's-park, than of the advance of the American troops, to seize the British cannon at Lundy's lane.

Turning over Mr. Thomson's confused pages, we come at last to his numbers. He makes the American force less, and the British force more, than Mr. O'Connor does. One he states at "2417 men ;" the other,—to prove how he can make up for a bad beginning, — at " 3450 regulars, 1200 incorporated militia, and 480 Indians, making in all 5130 men."t **This** moderate increase upon the 1637 arose, it - appears, out of four several reinforcements ;

* Lambert's Travels, Vol. II. p. 198.
+ Sketches of the War, p. 300.

along with the last of which came up " four of the British fleet." *—Poor Mr. Thomson ! Into what a dilemma he has here fallen. The river, from the falls, close to which the battle was fought, to Queenstown, a distance of eight miles, is, owing to its turbulence and rapidity, not navigable even for boats; and the four vessels to which this *learned* historian alludes, and which were the same that brought general Drummond and his troops from York, were lying peaceably at anchor opposite to Fort-George, 14 miles from the scene of action.

Our third historian, doctor Smith, has, in his usual brief way, extracted none but the most violent and extravagant parts of the accounts before him ; excepting that, while he makes our force engaged, including the Canadian militia, 4500," some one has persuaded him to advance a step nearer to truth, and state " that of the Americans at less than 3000." † An American writer from Buffaloe, speaking of this action, says : " We had in our whole army 4000 men ;" and, in the " Buffaloe Gazette Extraordinary," of July 28, we read : " The enemy's forces engaged must have been nearly 5000 ; ours,"—here is a frank admission,—" short of that number," After this, will it be pretended, that the Ameri.

* Sketches of the War, p. 296.

† Hist. of the United States, p. 313.

Albany Paper, Aug. 2, 1814.

cans had not 4000 men in the field at the battle of Niagara ?

We had almost forgotten, that we have a fourth historian to glean from. General Wilkinson, finding it easier, and, as we infer from his complaints of ill-usage, more profitable, to fight on paper than in the field, drags us through 54 tolerably close octavo pages, (exclusive of 19 much closer pages of *Appendix*,) till he has done descanting upon " true valor," in the performances of the " heroes of Bridgewater," and,—forgetful of his own behaviour in the Mdt-treal expedition, and before La Colic grist-mil l,—upon military imbecility, in the proceedings of generals Brown and Scott, on the " memorable 25th of July." As, for almost every important fact, two opposite statements can be found, it would be only misleading the reader to make extracts. We may suppose, however, that the five large diagrams, which the general gives of the action, are tolerably correct. On the contrary, our faith in them is destroyed, thus :—" Of course, the diagram," says the general, "founded on colonel Leavenworth's report, is erroneous."* ALE though not explicit as to numbers, he takes care to adopt a similar stratagem • to that which he practised about the gun-boats at La Colle,t and represents the British columns upon his diagrams, to be five times as large as the American. Even

* Wilkinson's IVtem. Vol. I. p. 689.

t See p. 88.

here he is doomed to contradict the inference he would have us draw. " I have no authority," says general Wilkinson, " to question general Drummond's report of his own order of battle, or his force, except from the information of colonel Leavenworth and other officers." And ^{vet.} alluding to the materials from which he professes to draw up his history of this battle, he asks : " But how shall we reconcile the very opposite accounts, which have been rendered on oath before a tribunal of justice ?" ¹ And why the accounts may well be opposite, he immediately afterwards explains, very satisfactorily, thus : " I will answer, from what I have witnessed, that, in warm military combats, an officer at the head of a platoon or battalion, who does his duty, can see very little beyond his immediate command, and that different men see the same object with different optics ;" ^t—more especially, when " it was so dark at the time, that objects could not be distinguished many paces." The capture of general Wall, and of the other prisoners taken with him, the general very properly attributes to " the confusion incident to a night-attack, and the shifting of the action." Nor does he, like Mr. O'Connor, and most of the other historians, unwittingly lessen the merit of the victors, by styling the

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 722. + Ibid. 686.
Ibid. 701.

vanquished—" cowards." The general, very considerably, ranks British, next to American valor; thus : " The enemy, whose persevering courage could not be excelled, but by men who sprang from the same stock," &c.* Our last extract shall be from the general's " Preliminary Observations." " I speak not," says he, " of achievements by which cities have been saved, and states protected ; of great and sanguinary battles, wherein the life of the soldier has been bartered for the safety of the empire ; of Thermopylae, or—*New Orleans* t Can we proceed ?

After the ` , victorious" American troops had retired to their camp, and obtained the " necessary refreshment," they were again ordered, with general Ripley, upon whom the command had now devolved, at their head, to march to the " battle ground," there to meet and beat the enemy, if he again appeared." ¹ ; General Brown simply and truly says :—" It was not executed ;" leaving his commentators to find excuses. Doctor Smith, either not in the vein of fiction, or become suddenly conscientious, prefers leaving a *hiatic* in his " History," to separating the battle of Bridgewater from the next " brilliant exploit" he has to record: Neither Mr. Thomson nor Mr. O'Connor is so easily staggered., The

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 706. t Ibid. 676,
t App. No. 32.

latter, without the slightest hesitation, says:—
 " On the morning after the battle, the Americans; tinder generals Ripley and Porter, reconnoitred the enemy, who did not shew any disposition to renew the contest ; and then burned the enemy's barracks, and a bridge at - Chippeway : after which they returned to Fort-Erie."* Mr. Thomson attempts to qualify and alter the meaning of general Brown's orders; and to prove that the enemy was *aFth* time " reinforced." " Under such circumstances," he adds, " it would have been highly injudicious to have attacked him." " General Ripley," proceeds Mr. Thomson, "seeing the impossibility of regaining the field of battle, and the probability of his own flanks being compelled to fall back, by the immense superiority of the enemy's numbers, turned his army towards the Chippeway ; whence, having first destroyed the bridge over that stream, as well as the platforms which he had previously constructed at the enemy's old works there, he pursued his retreat towards Fort-Erie ; and reached it, in good order, on the following day." " General Wilkinson says —" General Ripley, finding the enemy strongly posted, in superior force, judiciously retired ; and then a scene ensued, which has been carefully concealed from the public. By the improvidence of general Brown, the deficiency of transport provided for

* Mist. of the War, p. 257.

his baggage, stores, and provisions, had not been remedied ; and a great portion of it was now found necessary to the accommodation of his wounded and sick. The necessity of a retreat could be no longer concealed or delayed; and the consequences were, that a considerable quantity of provisions, stores, and camp-equipment, with a number of tents, were thrown into the river, or burnt. ' I have this fact from an officer left with the command which performed this duty.'*

This is what Mr. Thomson calls, retreating " in good order." But for the strong pique which general Wilkinson bears to general Brown, the above fact would not have reached us through an American channel. Mr. O'Connor, by way of giving a daring feature to this *orderly* retreat, declares that the Americans " burnt the enemy's barracks : " why did he not tell us, that they valiantly set fire to Street's mills, the property of a private individual ?

* Sketches of the War, p. 302.

41., Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. 1. p. 722.

