

THE CANADIAN DOMINION.

BY HENRY BROOKE.

Of all the favored nations
In the east or in the west,
The Canadian Dominion
Is the brightest and the best;
For our homes and halls of plenty,
We have peace on every hand,
And our people are as noble
As the lords of any land.

We have many little Edens,
Scattered up and down our dunes;
We've a hundred pretty hamlets,
Nestling in our fruitful vales;
Here the sunlight loves to linger,
And the summer winds to blow;
Here the rosy spring in April
Leapeth laughing from the snow.

We have oaks to build us navies,
That have stood since Noah's flood,
And we've men to shape and steer them
Men of skill and dauntless blood.
We have lakes as broad as oceans
To transport our surplus grain;
We have mighty rolling rivers
To convey it to the main.

We have springs of healing waters;
We have ever-during hills
That encircle in their journey
Half a thousand happy hills—
Till the oppressed of every nation—
Him that plants and him that delves,
If they'll cast their lots among us,
We will make them like ourselves.

For the west shall be the garden,
And its splendors be unfurled,
Till its beauty is a byword
With the people of the world;
And the east shall build us ships,
That shall whiten every sea,
And the glory of the nation
Shall be British liberty.

And if foes too strong oppress us,
On a little island there
Dwells a lion that can shield us
By the terror of his roar;
For its flag that rules the ocean,
Is respected on the shore;
It has braved a thousand battles,
And can brave a thousand more.

In its folds in silent sorrow
We will wrap our fallen brave;
But we'll wave it high in triumph
Over every traitor's grave,
And in spite of Annexationists,
By the world it shall be seen
That we honor our Dominion,
Love old England and her Queen.

And our fathers up in Heaven—
In the Land far away—
Looking down with pride upon us,
Shall, perhaps, be heard to say:
"These our children emulate us,
Tread the righteous path we trod,
Live in peace and honest plenty,
Love their country and their God."

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

IV.

The gallant general and soldier had fallen, the handful of men he led had fearfully avenged his death, and now outnumbered, exhausted with exertion, they awaited in front of the battery at Vroeman's Point the arrival of those reinforcements which were rapidly arriving. From early dawn till noon they had fought with changing fortune, able through all to hold their own, and now the time had arrived when the action would be renewed, it being well understood that the struggle would be final. Early in the afternoon a body of the gallant Mohawk warriors led by their chieftains Norton and Young Brant, arrived on the field and were at once thrown to the front, driving in the American outposts and skirmishers on their main body and were only compelled to retire after a sharp and protracted skirmish by being outnumbered; they fell back on the main body of the British but still maintained their position in front.

Reinforcements began to arrive, 380 rank and file of the 41st regiment had come up from Fort George, Cook's and McEwan's flank companies of the 1st Lincoln Militia, Nellis's and W. Crooks' flank companies of the 4th Lincoln, Hall's, Durand's and Applegarth's companies of 5th Lincoln, Cameron's, Howard's, and Chisholm's companies of the York Militia, Major Merritt's cavalry troop and part of Swayzee's company of Militia Artillery, numbering 375 men. A short time afterwards Colonel Clark of the Militia arrived from Chippewa with Capt. Bullock's company of the 41st regiment, Hamilton's and Rowe's companies of the 2nd Lincoln and Volunteer Reserve Militia, making the whole force of all arms 1000 rank and file of whom 560 were regular soldiers.

After carefully reconnoitring General Sheaffe, who now assumed the command, commenced the attack by the advance of his left, composed of the light company of the 41st, supported by a body of Militia and Indians. The Americans, under General Wadsworth, occupied a position of extreme peril on the heights, they could neither retreat nor advance, for the Militia and Indians stubbornly held the village and would not be driven out; the last reinforcement from Chippewa held ground on their right with their Indians well in the rear, and except over the precipice no reinforcement or aid could reach them. Some five or six thousand of their countrymen had witnessed the fighting from the opposite shore and had suddenly acquired religious and constitutional scruples about crossing the river and leaving the State of New York; reinforcements could alone save their countrymen and reinforcements they would not furnish. Meanwhile the British left advanced at the run, delivered a volley and closed with the bayonet; the American right was at once driven in and over the crest of the height, Sheaffe immediately advanced his main body under cover of the fire of two three pounder guns, and the right advancing at the same time, the Americans were driven over the crest and prepared to make a final stand almost on the very edge of the precipice. The result had better be told in the words of Lt. Col. W. F. Coffin, in his "1812, a Chronicle of the War," a work which ought to be in the hands of every Canadian militiaman:—"Among the present residents whom the fortunes of peace have cast on our frontiers, is one John McCartney who served in the American regulars at the battle of Queenston Heights. He now lives between old Newark (Niagara) and Queenston; he relates that in preparation for the last assault of the British the American officers caused their men to load and lie down with the order not to raise or fire a shot until they got the word. Twenty men were detailed at intervals in the rear with pieces loaded and directions openly given to shoot down any man disobeying the first order. He states that the British were within forty

yards before the word came, that the volley was instantaneous and fatal but never stopped the rush which cleared the hill like chaff before a gust of wind."

Nothing now remained to the survivors but surrender. Colonel Scott with Captains Totten and Gibson with Totten's cravat attached to a sword point as a flag of truce, emerged from the rocks near where the Suspension bridge now stands and were conducted to General Sheaffe, the result of which was that Major General Wadsworth with 1100 American officers and soldiers, the survivors of this eventful day's fighting, laid down their arms.

No victory could repair the loss of Gen. Brock, but there can be no doubt that this action established at once the character of the raw Canadian Militia soldier as a fighting man, and demonstrated that all other things being equal he could not be beaten, having neither a religious or constitutional conviction against fighting in a good cause. The remainder of this affair is from a narrative by Major Richardson:

The British loss at Queenstown was 11 killed and 60 wounded of the line and militia; and 5 killed and 9 wounded of the brave Indians. The number of killed and wounded of the Americans is not precisely known. The former has however been admitted by themselves to have been between 90 and 100. Independently of those killed upon the field, and dashed over the precipice, a great number perished in two or three boats sunk by the fire from our batteries.

Again, on this occasion, was the late Chief Justice Robinson conspicuous for his zeal and his gallantry. In the absence of his captain, (Howard) who was upon leave, he commanded the 2nd flank company during the whole of the day. He consequently bore a prominent part in the engagement, from the moment when he arrived at early dawn from Brown's point where, it has been seen, he was stationed with No. 1, or Capt. Cameron's company, to the late hour in the afternoon, when victory finally perched on the British standard. The officers attached to Lieut. Robinson, were Lieut. Stanton, and Lieut. Samuel P. Jarvis. The subalterns of Captain Cameron's company were Lieut. Jarvis, Lieut. Archibald McLean, afterwards Chief Justice of Upper Canada, and Lieut. Geo. Ridout. Captain Hatt's and Capt. Chisholm's companies were the first to oppose the landing of the enemy.

The victory of Queenstown heights, although fought at a distance from the principal theatre of their service, the Right division distinctly claim as their own. The main body of the 41st, who later composed that Division, principally sustained the action, and among these were the grenadiers who had already assisted at the capture of Detroit. Moreover there were there the York Volunteers who also had participated in that memorable triumph. True, the 49th Flank Companies, and especially their leaders, had gallantly done their duty in the morning,