

more than an hour the battle of North Point was well contested, \* \* \* \* \*. Secondly—"the misconduct of one regiment, Col. Ansey's, caused some confusion, and forced General Stricher to yield the field of battle." Now for General Armstrong's testimony. "The march was resumed and a battle fought of one hour and twenty minutes' continuance."

If any credit is to be attached to these statements, General Stricher must have entertained very curious ideas of a battle, if he considered North Point as a mere skirmish of *videttes*. Again, he says that he had an intention of "attacking him (Col. Brooke) in the morning." If such were really Colonel Stricher's intention, what was there to prevent pursuit; allowing even that Col. Brooke moved off his army unperceived, he halted within a very short distance a sufficiently long time to have allowed the American forces to overtake them, and every one is aware that a retreating army rarely fights with as much spirit as one on the advance—why, then, did not Stricher, if so anxious to fight, hang on the enemy's rear, harass his retreat and force him to give battle. We have shown that it could not have arisen from want of troops, and there is no alternative left, in spite of General Stricher's assertions to the contrary, but to ascribe it to want of inclination. We have, however, devoted quite-space enough to the doughty American General.

It would be difficult to decide whether the  
Opinions of the American  
 writers on the descent on  
 Baltimore. **To Poems of the Gov-**  
**ernment Organs over**  
**the disastrous attack**  
 on Baltimore, or their denunciations of the British for the wound to their vanity, inflicted at Washington, were louder. There is, however, very little doubt, but that it was

to the death of General Ross alone, that the safety of Baltimore was attributable. The waters of the Patuxco were too shallow to permit the near approach of the British frigates to Fort M'Henry, but it is well known that the Captains of the *Seyn*, *Euryalus*, *Hebrus*, and *Havannah* frigates, offered to lighten their vessels and lay them along side of the American fort, and it would almost appear as if nothing prevented the offer being accepted, but the state of indecision into which the naval commanders were thrown by the death of General Ross. Had Sir Alexander Cochrane acted with his usual decision, the *Java* and other vessels of war must have been captured, Baltimore must have fallen, and instead of the annals of Great Britain recording a disaster, another victory would have been added to her long roll of triumphs.

#### Platts-burg.

Hitherto our task has been comparatively painless, as when we had to chronicle defeat, we have been enabled to show that to superior numbers alone was it attributable, and we have also proved by figures from American writers, that, in almost every instance where victory was achieved, it was against a superior force. It is now, however, our duty to chronicle one of the most humiliating expeditions ever sustained by a British force, and the task is the more painful as the defeat arose from no misconduct on the part of the troops, but was solely produced by the imbecility and vacillation of Sir George Prevost. We will, however, permit the unfortunate commander of the British forces to tell his own tale first, and in our next chapter we will enter on a review of the whole transaction. Extracts from the the American commander, General Macomb's dispatch will be also found in our notes.\*

\* "The governor-general of the Canadas, Sir George Prevost, having collected all the disposable force in Lower Canada, with a view of conquering the country as far as Crown Point, and Ticonderoga, entered the territories of the United States on the 1st of the month, and occupied the village of Champlain: there he avowed his intentions, and issued orders and proclamations, tending to dissuade the people from their allegiance, and inviting them to furnish his army with provisions. He immediately began to impress the waggons and teams in the vicinity, and loaded them with his heavy bag-

gage and stores. From this I was persuaded he intended to attack this place. I had but just returned from the lines, where I had commanded a fine brigade, which was broken up to form the division under major-general Izard, and ordered to the westward. Being senior officer, he left me in command; and, except the four companies of the 6th regiment, I had not an organized battalion among those remaining. The garrison was composed of convalescents and recruits of the new regiments, all in the greatest confusion, as well as the ordnance and stores, and the works in no state of defence.