

sons of Major Grantham, by Isabel de Haldimar, daughter of the Capt. Fred. and Madelaine de Haldimar who were so prominent in *Wacousta*; Jeremiah Desborough, son of Wacousta and Ellen Halloway; Phil. Desborough, his son; Matilda, his daughter adopted by a Major Montgomerie, and hence known as Matilda Montgomerie; and Col. Forrester, a native of Kentucky and a former lover of Matilda Montgomerie. Gen. Brock and Tecumseh, as well as other Indian leaders, figure in the novel, for the action takes place in the stirring times of 1812 when Brock took Detroit.

The opening scene is in and around Amherstburg and the occasion the attempt of an American bark to steal by the British gunboat and get to Detroit. Gerald Grantham, the commander of the British boat, who, though seemingly derelict in his duty, was really in ambush, overhauled and captured the American just when every on-looker thought it was escaping. Major Montgomerie and his reputed daughter were among the prisoners; also the traitor to the British, the Michigan militiaman, Paul Emilius Theophilus Arnoldi (Phil. Desborough). Henry Grantham had already been introduced as defending his brother in his seeming dereliction. Miss Montgomerie, along with the other prisoners, is brought before the commanding officer, and during the scene that follows we feel that Gerald Grantham is in great danger of losing his heart to her. From this spring all further complications and woes. After a dinner party and a discussion of American and English methods of treating the Indians, we are introduced to Jeremiah Desborough, who is helping his son Phil, alias Arnoldi, to escape, and in the course of the narrative Jeremiah avows himself the murderer of Major Grantham. The course of events brings Phil back again to British soil and father and son plot destruction to the Granthams and British. Their plans do not succeed, however, because of the watchfulness of Gerald and his faithful negro servant, Sambo, but in the attempt to carry them out Phil is scalped. Then follow the chapters devoted to an account of Brock's capture of Detroit and of Gerald Grantham's and Sambo's visit to the scenes so fraught with fateful consequences to the De Haldimars. After the capitulation Gerald was deputed to conduct the Americans who were given freedom, viz., the daughters of the Governor of Detroit and the Montgomeries, to Buffalo. Jeremiah Desborough was also on board as prisoner, destined for Fort Erie, to be tried there for treason and desertion. The journey only served to increase Gerald's infatuation for the fair Matilda. When nearing the end, by some unaccountable means, Desborough manages to escape, gives information to the Americans and in the attack that followed Grantham is taken prisoner. We are then hurried into the midst of the scenes about Amherstburg, when Gen. Proctor hears of the advance of the Americans. During the period of suspense following, Gerald Grantham and Sambo, by a fortunate escape, get back to the British, though Gerald really meant to commit suicide in the rapids as they were crossing, and the scenes that follow between the two brothers are touching in the extreme, Gerald almost insane from his desperate love for Matilda, Henry boding no good from the same. Then comes an account of the British attempt against Sandusky and of Gerald Grantham's determined courtship of death. He was, however, rescued by

Col. Forrester, of the American army, and sent to Frankfort, Kentucky, as a prisoner of war. Here he meets again with Matilda, is told of the wrongs done her by an American officer, of her hatred and desire for revenge, and he promises to avenge her. When he sees that he is to kill his rescuer at Sandusky, he fails and even hinders Matilda doing the deed herself. Forrester helps him to escape and Gerald arrives in Canada just as Brock fell at Queenston Heights. Henry Grantham was one of Brock's lieutenants, and anxious to avenge his chief, he shoots at and mortally wounds a skulking enemy, only to find that it is the long lost brother. But fate was pursuing Henry as well, for one of the vanquished Americans rushing past was Desborough, who, seizing the chance, clasps him tight and hurls him along with himself over the precipice to death. The prophecy of the wronged Ellen Halloway is fulfilled, for the last of the De Haldimars is no more.

It will, perhaps, be clear from this brief account that the *Canadian Brothers* is not so perfect a work as *Wacousta*. But one thing, however, seems to me certain and that is, that any fair and healthy minded reader would find this novel very interesting. There is no question about the author's talent, and though some of the disquisitions are somewhat long, yet, on the whole, the interest is maintained throughout.

The next work of interest to us is *Tecumseh: a poem in four cantos*. As indicated above, Morgan has this: a novel, but as copies of the *New Era* are decidedly scarce it was probably impossible for the author of the *Bibliotheca Canadensis* to get at the facts of the case. The poem consists of four cantos and 188 stanzas of ottava rima verse. The rhymes run a b a b a b c c. It was begun in the *New Era*, July 22nd, 1842, continued July 29th and Aug. 12th, and completed Aug. 19th, 1842, with the last number of the periodical.

The first canto opens with a description of the naval battle between the Americans under Perry and the British under Barclay at Put-in-Bay, Sept. 15th, 1813. The end of the battle is thus described:

Stanza 18.

What man can compass, or what mortal dare,
To ring hard conquest from a mightier foe,
Was done in vain. Alas! a day so fair
Was doomed to close in agony and woe;
And many a generous seaman in despair,
Felt the hot tear of indignation flow
Upon his rude and furrowed cheek, where
shame
Stamped his first impress in the flush of flame.

19.

For now they mark the hostile chief ascend
A deck unstained, uninjured in the fray.
His standard rais'd, the crew their efforts
blend,
And thro' the mastless fleet pursue their
way,
While crashing broadsides on the wrecks descend,
Whose fainter lightnings on the victors play,
And leave the weakness of a band reveal'd,
Too weak to conquer, yet too proud to yield.

Yield they must. But on a hill in the distance are seen one thousand naked warriors, among them a superb figure, a "moveless warrior" as he is called, because he does not seem to have a part in what is exciting all the others. Then the poet tells of the great victory of this warrior at the Wabash over Gen. Harrison, and continues:

Stanza 31.

Blood of the prophet and of vigorous mould!
Undaunted leader of a dauntless band,
Vain were each effort of thy foes most bold
To stay the arm of slaughter, or withstand
The scathing lightnings of that eye, where
rolled
Deep vengeance for the sufferings of a
land

Long doom'd the partage of a numerous horde,
Whom lawless conquest o'er its vallies poured.

32.

Nor yet (though terrible in war-like rage,
And like the panther bounding on his prey,
When the fierce war-cry pealed the battle's
gale,
And death and desolation marked his way.)
Less bright in wisdom, he the gen'rous sage,
Whose prudent councils shed a partial ray
Of gladness o'er that too devoted soil
Which Guile and Rapine banded to despoil.

Such is the picture of Tecumseh. Numerous passages in the *Canadian Brothers* have already shown us how great was Richardson's admiration for the great Indian chief. A short reference is made to Tecumseh's generous signing a peace at the request of the Americans, which was only to be broken by them in ten months. Now, he is waiting for intelligence of the advance of the American army. Hearing a drum in the distance, he gives orders to his son, Uncas, to get everything in readiness to surprise the unsuspecting Americans.

The second canto opens with a song by an aged chief, the Prophet, who seems to be Tecumseh's father, in which he contrasts the former quiet on the Erie with the troubles of the present; he also contrasts Tecumseh, the saviour of his people, with Pontiac, whom he calls a traitor. But shouts and war-cries tell of the return of the Indian scouting party. They were victorious, but paid dearly for the victory, for Uncas, the hope of his father and his people, is brought back dead. The news kills the aged grand-sire. His house is fallen. The American captain, who is among the captives, was sacrificed, according to Indian custom, by an old aunt of Uncas. On this Richardson gives a historical note claiming that an American named Logan had been so sacrificed on another occasion. An envoy from the British now comes to tell Tecumseh of the arrival of more Americans marching to the invasion of Canada.

The third canto opens with a description of the quiet of all nature on the eve of the retreat to Moraviantown. Then the hurry and bustle of the council held is next pictured. Retreat is resolved upon. But Tecumseh is angry.

Uprose Tecumseh with impatient bound,
Fire in his mien and anger in his eye;
Flashed his proud glance contemptuously
around,
While his tall crest-plumes, nodding from on
high,
Bent o'er the brow that now indignant frown-
ed
And lent his swarthy cheek a duskier hue:
Then burst the passions of his warrior soul,
Which e'en that council stern could not con-
trol.

No word of ire to lesser chief he deign'd,
The curl upon his lip spoke only there;
But turning quick to him who then sustained
The arduous duties of the regal chair,
In speech of fire the father's act arraign'd,
And, hurried by his passion's fitful glare,
Proclaimed his prudence base, unmanly fear,
Which shrank from danger as the foe drew
near.

"Never," he cried,—and as he spoke the vault
Rang in wild echoes to his wrathful mood,—
"Never do I, in the strong camp's assault,
Or where the foemen line the dusky wood,
Behind the columns of my warriors halt,