

among those who, after the present generation has passed away, are destined to form the people of United Canada.

We regret to learn that though an appeal has been publicly made to those who are familiar with the events of the war in Eastern Canada, and in the Midland section of the Province, the gallant author has not been furnished with a single sketch to aid him in the goodly work of forming an enduring record of the achievements which won for these several divisions of the Army the thanks of the empire. To what cause this unnatural apathy is to be attributed, it would be difficult to tell. There is no scarcity of men among us who are qualified by the part they took in the several campaigns, as well as by general ability, to furnish the *matériel* upon which the historian might build a connected history. Why is it that they do not do so? They cannot surely be unaware of the vast importance of retaining, while it is yet possible, for the benefit of the young, a faithful impress of the past. Now, however, that an example is before them of what can be done, we indulge a hope that there will be something of alacrity instilled into them—that they will at last do the state a service so essential to its respectability. That the gallant Major will do full justice to their communications, after the specimen before them, they cannot doubt, and the pleasing reflection that by doing so they will aid in supplying what all acknowledge to be most important, will surely urge them to throw their sloth aside, and furnish to the historian, and through him to the public, their several “Reminiscences of the War.”

After this digression, we have scarcely room to give to the narrative that lengthy consideration which its importance claims. It is, we rejoice to say, written in a strain of impartial justice, which stands in favourable contrast with some of the histories which have before been written of the same events. In it honour is rendered to whom honour is due, whether friend or enemy, and the despatches of the opposing leaders are frequently given in corroboration of the views taken by the author, so that the facts are placed beyond the possibility of cavil, or a chance of doubt. The Major's reputation is an assurance that, as a literary composition, it will stand the test of criticism.

We here annex an extract from the book, describing the famous naval engagement on Lake Erie,—the affair on which the renown of the celebrated Perry is principally founded. Though most unfortunate to the British arms in its results, the battle did not sully the name of Barclay, or the glory of the British arms:—

The period was now fast approaching when the fruits of so much toil and privation were to be wrested from our grasp, and the extensive line of territory, both original and acquired, so gallantly defended by a single regiment against the repeated invasions of the enemy during a period of fifteen months, was to fall beneath the efforts of numerical strength. Since the capture of Detroit, the Americans had been indefatigable in their exertions to establish a superiority of naval force, on which, they well knew, depended the ultimate success of their arms. Buffalo was the harbour selected for the construction of their flotilla, which, under the hands of numerous workmen, soon presented a formidable appearance, and was deemed more than sufficient to ensure their ascendancy on the lake. Manned by experienced seamen taken from several frigates then blockaded in their sea-ports, and commanded by able and intelligent officers, these vessels put forth towards the close of August, and continued cruising off the harbour of Amherstburgh, in which our fleet lay, awaiting the completion of the Detroit, a vessel of twenty guns then on the stocks, and the arrival of seamen long promised and vainly expected from Lake Ontario. Captain Barclay had arrived some time previous, to take the command, and with him several officers and forty men: but notwithstanding every remonstrance on the subject made by the commanding officer of the division, no farther assistance was afforded. The remaining part of the crews were provincial sailors, willing and anxious, it is true, to do their duty, but without that perfection and experience in their profession, which are so indispensably necessary to the insurance of success in a combat at sea. In defiance of this disadvantage, the enemy had no sooner made his appearance, than the Detroit was launched in her rough and unfinished state, and armed, in default of other guns, with long battering pieces taken from the ramparts. Every calibre was employed—sixes, nines, twelves, eighteens, and even the two twenty-four pounders which had been so successfully used at the Miami. The early part of September was employed in getting in her masts and rigging, and in a few days the fleet was ready to sail. Our position at this period had become exceedingly critical. The want of provisions began to be seriously felt, and the ultimate possession of the garrison depended wholly on the result of the naval conflict, for which both parties were preparing. In the event of the enemy being successful, not only must we be open to the incursions of the large forces, then collected in several quarters, and ready to overwhelm us at the moment that the command of the lake would afford them facility of movement, but the means of obtaining supplies from Fort Erie must be entirely cut off. The quantity of provisions already consumed had been enormous; for independently of the wanton destruction of cattle by the Indians, who often shot or stabbed them merely to possess themselves of the horns, in which they secured their powder, leaving the carcases to putrify in the sun, ten thousand rations were daily issued