

This party burned Lewiston and some of the neighbouring villages, and captured and destroyed Fort Schlosser, near Niagara Falls. Only a broken bridge stopped them from going right on to Buffalo.

December 30.—Ten days later, the British general, having followed up the river on the Canadian side, looking for further revenge, sent a strong force across at midnight about two miles below Black Rock; and on the morning of the thirtieth another detachment crossed above that place. There was some little show of resistance as they landed, but the defenders soon fled to Buffalo. The British followed in pursuit. Again an attempt was made to check them; then the retreating enemy took to the woods and Buffalo was left to its fate. Both Black Rock and Buffalo were relentlessly burned to the ground. The last day of the year saw the whole of the New York frontier along the Niagara, from lake to lake, a waste of charred and blackened or still smouldering ruins; and four of the vessels that had fought in the battle of Lake Erie were included in the destruction.

But this did not end the matter. The next year was to bring still another invasion at Niagara and the burning of another Canadian village, followed by reprisals along the Atlantic coast.

NOTE.

An Ontario correspondent, referring to the REVIEW's Centennial Anniversary series, thinks that to most students the battles of Chateaugay and Chrystler's Farm will appear to be "incorrectly reported;" and is of opinion that the latter was the decisive battle of the war.

The Battle of Chateaugay turned back an invading army, or by coincidence the army turned back just when it met with a show of resistance at Chateaugay; while the sharp encounter on the banks of the St. Lawrence did not turn back the larger army of invaders, nor materially check its advance. These are the essential facts; the rest is a matter of opinion. We may take the view that if the Canadians had fallen back before Hampton's advance at Chateaugay he would have kept right on to the St. Lawrence and there waited for Wilkinson, and that the projected attack upon Montreal would have been made, and would inevitably have been successful; or we may choose to think that Hampton, having effected his full object by making a diversion, would have turned back at the same place or a little farther on if he had met with no opposition. In the first view of the matter, which is the one commonly held in Canada, the little skirmish at Chateaugay was decisive; in the other view, it was of trifling importance. And, in respect to the battle at Chrystler's, or Crysler's, (the latter is said to be the correct spelling of the name according to family tradition—the former is from a contemporary map,) we may suppose that Morrison's attack upon his rear had the effect of changing

Wilkinson's plans and keeping him from going right on to Montreal; or we may conclude that if not attacked he would have halted all the same when he found that Hampton was not waiting to join him. In the one case, Morrison's victory was decisive; in the other, it was but an incident of travel. There is still another view not wholly untenable, which is that both expeditions broke down under their own weight, and the final results would have been just the same if neither had met with any opposition; but this is a view which will not be very generally adopted among Canadians.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Alumnae Society of the St. John High School are to be congratulated upon their enterprise in bringing Mr. Alfred Noyes to address his first Canadian audience in St. John. Those who had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Noyes lecture, and were charmed by his reading of his poems, will be glad to hear that there is a possibility of his paying another visit to this part of Canada before he returns to England.

In an article headed "No Minstrel of the Camp" the Toronto Mail and Empire writes as follows:—

'Mr. Alfred Noyes' "The Winepress," in the October number of Blackwood's Magazine, is a most moving tale of war. By this composition Mr. Noyes, who is one of the greatest of living English poets, has made himself the laureate of the peace movement. The eight parts of this powerful poem are so many graphic pictures, all but the first two showing vividly the "hell" which war has been declared to be. Through the several infernos of the campaigns the young peasant passes without understanding or will of his own—as if he were in the hands of a Fate, a fate which in the last analysis might turn out to be no more than an armament firm. At the same time, so far as the private in the ranks could bear, all was done in the name of Freedom and Religion.

'Matthew Arnold has said: "We should conceive of poetry worthily, and more highly than it has been the custom to conceive of it. We should conceive of it as capable of higher uses, and called to higher destinies, than those which in general men have assigned to it hitherto. More and more mankind will discover that we have to turn to poetry to interpret life for us, to console us, to sustain us." The celebrating of heroic deeds and the stirring of the heroic spirit in men have always been high uses of poetry, but Mr. Noyes has found a still higher use for poetry if he has made it such a criticism, not of life, but