

# NIAGARA RIVER.

ke Erie with Lake Ontario, five great American lakes, and has a current (indeed) an hour. At its head it but after a course of about two distinct channels, forms Grand Island, 12 miles long, and reaching within one and a half, the next in importance, is very small.

side of Niagara river, nearly to the reader of American troops under the command of Fort Erie, were nearly twice as many as the Americans no particular defense, more than an open bridge from a detail of the ENTS IN THE HISTORY OF engaged in the conflict:

General Gaines having observed some day, put his force in the best situa-

general, the attack was organized of detachments to the amount of the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fred picked men, under Lieutenant or center column. And the one so upward of eight hundred men, constituted the third. The points were respectively the left flank, the lake; and the time fixed for the ing of the fifteenth. Accordingly, approach of an enemy was discovered, and immediately after, the lines the enemy's first or second column. time, of the twenty-first regiment, engineers; who instantly drew up

his line in the space between the battery and the water, and received the charge in a style suited to its impetuosity. Checked by a reasonable volley from this corps, and a shower of grape from Towson's artillery, the enemy sustained the conflict but a few minutes, and fell back to consolidate his ranks for a second attempt. This, however, proved equally unsuccessful; and though it was followed up by a succession of desperate charges, our column continued firm until the enemy was in a condition no longer to give battle.

"The firing had in some measure subsided on the left, when the approach of the columns under Lieutenant Colonels Drummond and Scott was announced by the fire of our picket-guard in a ravine at a small distance from our right; and in less than a minute afterward the direction of the two was plainly distinguishable, by the voice of their officers—one of them appearing to move from the ravine toward the fort, and the other rapidly approaching its point of attack by the margin of the lake. This flank was in a very inefficient state of defense, and as this circumstance was doubtless known to the enemy, it became doubly necessary to make timely resistance. Accordingly, the first of the two was promptly met by the fire from the salient bastion of the fort, and the musketry on its right and left, that on its right, consisting of Boughton's and Harding's volunteers, and that on the left, of the ninth regiment; altogether making perhaps one hundred and sixty or one hundred and seventy men. The night was exceedingly dark; but as near as we could judge through the obscurity, the last column did not continue long advancing—it seemed to hesitate at fifty or sixty yards distance—remained stationary for a minute, and then began to recoil. At this critical moment, loud and repeated threats, mingled with much confusion, announced the unwelcome intelligence that the enemy had been successful in carrying the bastion. The leader of the enemy's column was killed, and nearly all his party cut to pieces, before it had approached near enough to place its ladders, or avail itself of the open places in our line. Such was the result of the attack at this point. In the meantime day had broken, and the enemy, notwithstanding several attempts to dislodge him, was still in possession of the contested bastion, which, however, he derived no advantage from.

"The column of Colonel Scott being now routed, the guns of the Douglass battery were so directed as to cut off all communication between the contested bastion and the enemy's reserve—and a party of desperate fellows were about to rush in and finish the work, when a spark being communicated by some means to an ammunition chest under the platform, the bastion, with those in it, were blown into the air together.

"This ended the fight for the time being, and the enemy retired to prepare intrenchments. The Americans also were strengthening their defenses. The two forces thus lay within two miles of each other, for the space of thirty days. The time was occupied in skirmishes, but no decided engagement took place until the 17th of September.