

THE
CANADIAN MONTHLY
AND NATIONAL REVIEW.

VOL. 6.]

JULY, 1874.

[No. 1.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE WAR OF 1812.

THOSE readers who have followed with interest, in the pages of "For King and Country," the course of the War of 1812 up to the battle of Queenston Heights, may be further interested in a rapid *résumé* of the succeeding events of a war which, independently of its special interest for every Canadian, is as full of heroic deeds, brilliant exploits, thrilling adventures and picturesque situations, as many a more celebrated campaign. Being out of the stream of European history, and dwarfed by the gigantic proportions of the then European conflict, it has hardly attracted the attention it deserves; but those who have leisure and opportunity to study its details as presented in the various histories of Canada, and more fully in Colonel Coffin's interesting Chronicle of the War, will find themselves amply rewarded. In the meantime, those who have no very definite knowledge of the course of its events may find a sketch of them, in outline, both interesting and profitable. To give continuity and complete-

ness to the sketch, it is necessary rapidly to glance briefly back to the beginning of the war, and to the complications in which it originated. These latter are naturally traceable to events which occurred in the preceding century; to the smouldering sparks of hostility left between England and her revolted colonies when the flames of the War of Independence had been quenched in the blood of so many of her children. The mother country had not yet, perhaps, forgiven her vigorous but somewhat insubordinate scion for the rough repudiation of her authority, nor had the revolted child got over the acrimony of the separation. The Americans did not know, or could not appreciate the fact, that the Government of the day *was not England*—that a large portion of the British people had thought them ill-used, and had sympathized with them in their struggle for constitutional liberty; and so there existed among them a latent and too-easily excited hatred of everything British. In Canada, on the other hand, the