

present experience, this brave woman was fitted to perform an act of heroism that saved her country from invasion and bloodshed.

6. In June, 1813, the Canadian side of the Niagara River was in the hands of the Americans. General Vincent, who commanded the Canadian forces, had fallen back to the head of the lake. There was an outpost at the Twenty-mile Creek, or Jordan, another at Ten-mile Creek, and between them, at Beaver Dams, was stored a large quantity of camp stores and ammunition. Moving freely about from this point was a body of fifty scouts under Lieutenant FitzGibbon, a clever and resourceful officer. It is interesting to note that, even in those days, the red-coat of the British infantry was found to be unsuitable for scouting work. FitzGibbon had no khaki, but he dressed his men in reversible coats, red on one side and gray on the other.

7. Laura Secord was obliged to entertain a number of American officers who were waiting to complete their forces before marching against the Canadian troops at Burlington Heights. She heard them discussing their plans. They proposed next day to seize the post at Beaver Dams and make it their headquarters for the advance to the head of the lake. As soon as they left the house to perfect their arrangements Laura Secord told her husband FitzGibbon must be warned. James Secord was not strong enough for the journey and could not easily pass the pickets; there was no one else to send, so the courageous woman determined to take her life in her hands and attempt the long journey on foot.

8. The distance from Queenston to Beaver Dams by the direct road was thirteen miles; but Laura Secord had