

followed, however, by British schooners and gun-boats, and by a corps of observation, under Colonel Morrison, which made a descent upon him at Chrysler's Farm on the Canadian shore of the river—midway between Kingston and Montreal—and forced him to retreat, completely routed, though numbering two to one of the British force, the scattered American force precipitately taking to their boats and hastening down the river. Notwithstanding its completeness, this defeat was claimed by Wilkinson, and subsequently by American historians, as a victory!

Meantime, Colonel de Salaberry was ready with his gallant Canadian Voltigeurs and Fencibles to receive Hampton's advance on the Chateauguay. Taking up an excellent position, he defended it by a breastwork of logs and a line of *abattis*, broke down the bridges in front, and guarded the ford by an advanced picket and breastwork to obstruct the progress of the enemy's artillery. On the 26th of October, Hampton, with the American force of 3,500 strong, advanced against this position, defended by less than 400 Canadians. As the advanced pickets of the latter fell back on those next in rear, the Canadian force opened fire on the enemy's column, and held him in check till the retreat of some of the skirmishers in the centre encouraged him to advance. By a clever disposition of his buglers, however, sounding the advance at great distances apart, De Salaberry induced the foe to believe that a much greater force was advancing upon him. The American detachment under Colonel Purdy attempting to cross the Chateauguay to join Hampton's body, was defeated and forced to retreat, and, after a hot engagement of four hours, imagining the opposing force to be much more numerous than it really was, Hampton withdrew discomfited, leaving the 400 Canadians masters of the field, and having sustained a loss of only two killed and sixteen wounded, while the American loss had been about 100—the repulse of the Chateau-

guay being as notable and effectual as that of the preceding year at Queenston Heights.

In Upper Canada the tidings of these reverses terrified General McClure, who was in command at Fort George and Twenty-mile Creek, and was harrassing the neighbourhood by plundering foraging parties. Driven in upon Fort George by Colonel Murray, he determined, as the winter set in, to retreat to the American side. But he was apprehensive lest, even then, Vincent's army, finding shelter in Newark, should endanger his safety. So, in the bitter winter weather of a dark and stormy December, *by order of the American Government, expressed through President Madison*, he drove out the helpless inhabitants of 150 dwellings, including 400 women and children—from their peaceful homes, which he fired at thirty minutes' notice, and departed, leaving the unhappy people exposed to the inclemency of the wintry weather, to lament over the smouldering ruins of their homes and their property.

That this barbarous act was the prelude to a course of signal reverses, is scarcely matter for surprise. Strange to say, McClure's eagerness to destroy defenceless Newark so engrossed him that he left Fort George with its stores and barracks uninjured, for the benefit of the British, who quickly succeeded him in its occupation, and accomplished the surprise and capture of Fort Niagara a few days later,—Colonel Murray taking it with a force of 500 men. General Riall speedily followed to Murray's support, and made prompt reprisals for the destruction of Newark, by consigning Youngstown, Lewiston, and Manchester to the flames. The militia were called out with all speed, but General Drummond, the British Commander on the frontier, was bent on further vengeance, and pushed on to Black Rock, which he took in conjunction with Riall, and drove the American troops' back on Buffalo. Thither, too, he followed in pursuit, overpowered all resist-