

were mere blusterers; self-sacrifice attributed to men who took advantage of the disorders that prevailed during the revolution to enrich themselves, and patriotism ascribed to bosoms where selfishness reigned. That the triumph of the revolution was due to assistance from abroad, to French money, fleets, and armies, was ignored, and ascribed to Washington and his generals. So it came, when war was declared in 1812, the men who were embalmed in the public mind as the personification of every military virtue were given command. The result was disastrous. Hull, Dearborn, Hampton, Wilkinson, Armstrong were all veterans of the revolution, and in their respective failures throw a side-light on the quality of the leaders of the revolution. The war lasted another year, and there was fierce fighting along the Niagara frontier, but there was no renewal of the attempt to capture Montreal. The campaign which ended on Crysler's farm ensured its safety.

Wilkinson declared it was not the event of the 11th November that caused his abandonment of the campaign. It is self-evident, however, that had Morrison's little army been routed he would have had no excuse to give up his advance on Montreal. He would have met no opposition to give him concern until the spires of that city met his sight, and, even then, its paltry garrison of 200 sailors and 400 marines, drawn from the fleet at Quebec, and a mob of militiamen dragged from their homes by compulsion to shoulder a gun, could not have withstood him. With Montreal in U.S. possession all the British troops west of it, cut off from their base of supply, would have had to surrender, and the stars-and-stripes would have flown over all Canada west of Quebec. It was the battle of Crysler that saved Canada. At the distance of a century we perceive events in their right proportion, and recognize Crysler to be the decisive battle of the war of 1812. So long as Canadians rejoice in being Britons they ought to cherish the memory of Morrison and his eight hundred.

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Huntingdon, Que., May 1, 1913.