

CANADA IN 1812 AND 1863.—No. III.

[See Canadian Illustrated News, Vol. I, p. 261 and 304.]

In reading the two declarations of war at this distant day the man whose mind is tempered with an honest desire to arrive at truth, no matter whether American, British Canadian, or old country British, he cannot avoid observing in the declaration of America, even if he did not know that the authorities of that country had sedulously prepared for war over a space of six months before declaring it, and had been in secret league with Napoleon Bonaparte—assassin of the liberty of nations, the maddened enemy of Great Britain, which was then contending against him and the allies of his despotism almost single-handed—I say, if the dispassionate American or Canadian reader of this day knew nothing of the secret alliance of the United States with France, previous to their declaration of war against Britain and pre-determination to invade and conquer Canada, the terms of their official announcement of hostilities on the 18th of June, 1812, show clearly that they, being resolute for war left no conditions open for peace.—While it is equally clear that the British declaration of war issued only conditionally, on the 31st of July and finally on the 13th of October, was reluctantly issued, and that it still left conditions of peace open for the acceptance of America.

And in the proclamations of the two opposing commanders, Gen. William Hull, who invaded Canada, and General Sir Isaac Brock, who repelled the invasion, the difference in their ethics and in that manly honor which is truth, is yet more wide and remarkable. General Hull and his country were not 'driven' to invade Canada, as he said, except by the secret intrigues of Bonaparte with the American government, and by the impatience of the slave States and of the political democrats to let loose their privateers and vessels of war to cruise for prize money. Those privateers were largely assembled in the ports of Baltimore, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans, all ready for the word to depart. Some also were at Philadelphia and New York, but the letters of marque were chiefly in the ports of the slave States where the influence of Bonaparte predominated. General Hull and his country were nei-

ther 'driven' to invade Canada, nor had he any cause to make proclamation after he was in Canada, that if American 'women and children' were butchered by Indians the war would become a conflict of extermination. He was the invader. His arrogant manifesto was answered by General Brock, calmly, reasonably, firmly. Both were last week placed in this paper before the present Canadian people who purchase so largely the monthly and weekly periodicals of the United States journals in which our history is perverted, and our grand, old, political institutions of monarchy and consolidated freedom are systematically maligned.

The House of Assembly of Upper Canada was in session when America declared war, and pronounced on it in the following terms:

'The declaration of war issued against Great Britain by the United States when first announced, appeared to be an act of such astonishing folly and desperation as to be almost incredible, and not only excited the greatest surprise among the inhabitants of this Province, but among the great majority of our enemies themselves. So many cogent reasons, from interest, affection and virtue, pleaded for an opposite policy that the most intelligent became the most credulous. That a government professing to be the friend of man and the great supporter of his liberty and independence should light up the torch of war against the only nation that stands between itself and destruction, exhibited a

degree of infatuation or madness altogether incomprehensible.

'Already have we the joy to remark that the spirit of loyalty has burst forth in all its ancient splendor. The militia in all parts of the Province have volunteered their services with acclamation, and displayed a degree of energy worthy of the British name. They do not forget the blessings and privileges which they enjoy under the protection and fostering care of the British empire, whose government is only felt in this country by acts of the purest justice and efficacious benevolence.'

[That language was true previous to the time it was used; the exceptions to a government of the purest justice not being felt until after the war, and then they arose in chief part out of the assumption of the high functions of aristocracy by a small section of the Upper Canadian proprietors of land who were office holders.]

'When men are called upon to defend everything they call precious, their wives and children, their friends and possessions, they ought to be inspired with the noblest resolutions, and they will not be easily frightened by menaces or conquered by force. And beholding as we do the flame of patriotism burning from one end of the Canadas to the other, we cannot but entertain the most pleasing anticipations.

'Our enemies have indeed said that they

'Remember that when you go forth to the combat that you fight not for yourselves alone but for the whole world; that you are defeating the most formidable conspiracy against the civilization of man that was ever contrived—a conspiracy threatening greater barbarism and misery than followed the downfall of the Roman Empire; that now you have an opportunity of proving your attachment to the parent state which contends for the relief of oppressed nations, the last pillar of true liberty, and the last refuge of oppressed humanity.

'Persevere as you have begun in your strict obedience to the laws and your attention to military discipline; deem no sacrifice too costly which secures the enjoyment of our happy constitution.'

Preliminary to a 'Narrative of the war of 1812,' which will be found in succeeding issues of the Canadian Illustrated News, with pictorial illustrations of places, persons, events, and things, made by artists engaged on the staff of this journal, it is deemed requisite to place on record in these pages what the committee of the American Congress recommended in 1862 and 1863, as preparations against time of war between the Republic and Canada. From the beginning of the war of 1812, the Strait and Island of Makinaw (or Machillimakinak,) were held by this Province. Can we read the probable fortunes of 1863, and two years to come, by

which cost about two millions of dollars, and it is too important to be overlooked. The mineral region of Lake Superior is probably richer in iron and copper than any other in the world; and the iron has been found to be superior in quality to any other known. These mines have been rapidly developed, and now constitute an important national interest. Old Fort Brady is represented as commanding the entrance to Lake Superior, and an appropriation for its repair, or a new fort, more eligibly situated is recommended. (That appropriation has been made.)

3. A military road from Bay de Noquet, or Green Bay to Marquette, or some other point on Lake Superior, and an early completion of the railroad from Appleton to Lake Superior would afford additional communication with this great lake; and both of these are of importance for military reasons and are earnestly recommended to the consideration of Congress.

4. Strait of Makinaw. (Machillimakinak of the war of 1812.) This strait constitutes the door to Lake Michigan around which lake lie the States of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin, with an aggregate population amounting to nearly five millions. On its shores are the towns of Grand Haven, Muskegan, St. Joseph, Michigan city, Chicago, Waukegan, Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, and Green Bay with many others

rising rapidly into importance. The commerce of this lake exceeds two hundred million dollars per annum.

5. The great granary of the Union has its depots on the border of this lake. It can be defended by adequate fortifications at the strait of Makinaw, about three miles wide.—Fortifications at the Strait of Makinaw close the opening or entrance into this great inland sea.—When the vast interests thus secured are considered, it is obvious that Lake Michigan and all its shores and cities should be defended on the threshold at Mackinaw.

6. The importance of having a great inland sea like Lake Michigan converted into a secure harbour where fleets and navies may be gathered together in security, where may be collected together magazines of arms, and munitions, and provisions can scarcely be exaggerated.

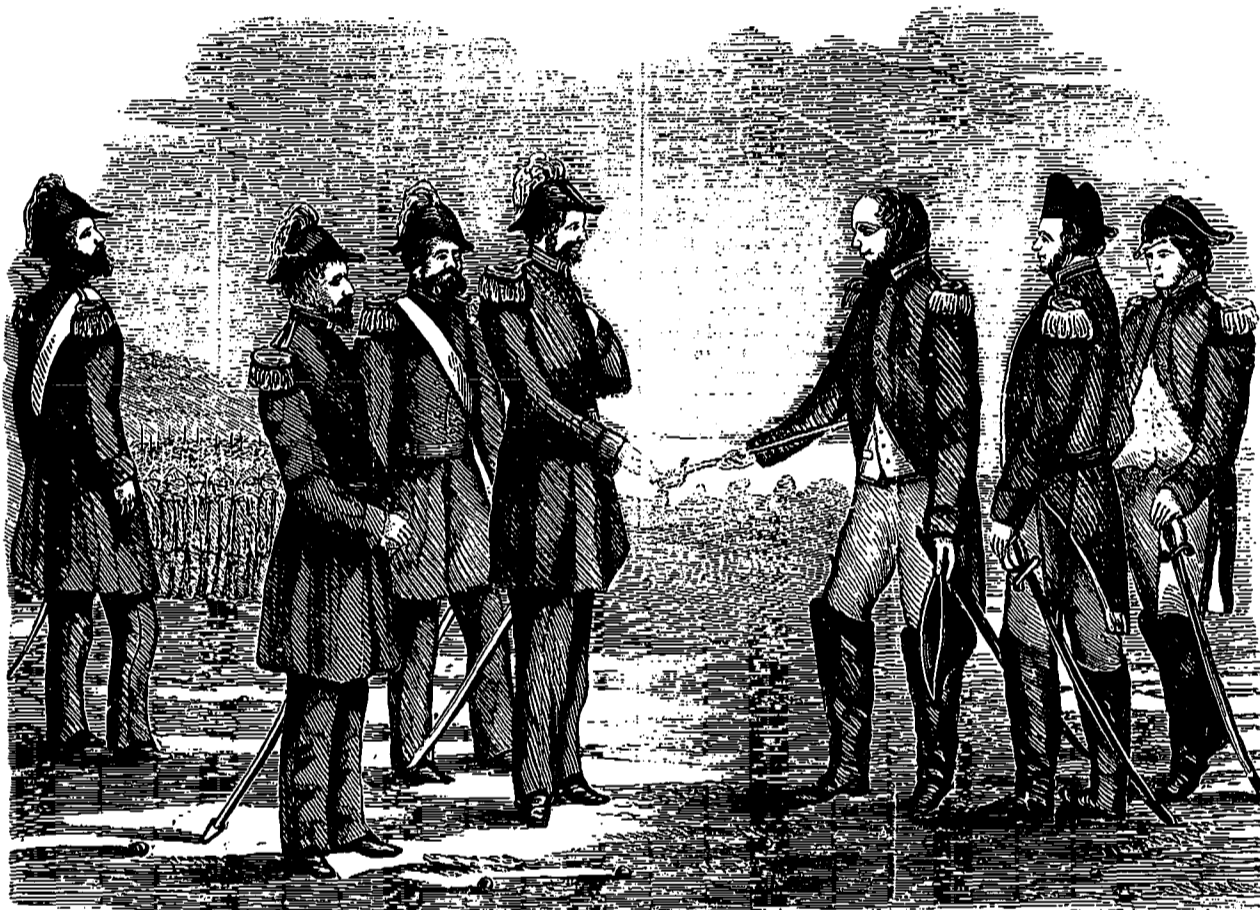
7. 'Lake Michigan entirely within our own territory

unapproachable by land, and inaccessible by water by any foreign enemy except through a narrow strait or entrance, is a position of immense importance, and the policy of closing its entrance is too obvious to need illustration.

Makinaw to be made the Gibraltar of the Western Lakes.

8. Upon the importance of this locality General Totten of the United States Engineers, reports: As to the stronger works I consider one at Makinaw to be indispensable. This will be the principal watching point of the Upper Lakes. Here war-steamer will call to refresh, to communicate with each other, to find shelter, to lie in wait. It is hardly to be supposed that a hostile naval expedition, coming out of Georgian Bay, (in Canada) would venture towards the upper lakes or down Lake Huron, certainly not into Lake Michigan, while this point of observation and rendezvous is occupied by our superior squadron. The fort here must be adequate to protect this anchorage, and the defences of the island should be such as to defeat any enterprize designed to wrest it from us by superior force.

9. 'The committee are clear in their judgment, that in view of the vast importance of Makinaw, and the interests there to be defended, the government should take immediate means to close the Straits against the entrance of any hostile fleet.



GENERAL HULL SURRENDERING TO SIR ISAAC BROCK, August 16th, 1812.—[See page 5.]

can subdue this country by a proclamation, but it is our part to prove to them that they are mistaken; that the population is determinedly hostile, and that the few who might otherwise be inclined will find it their safety to be faithful.

'Innumerable attempts will be made by falsehood to detach you from your allegiance; for our enemies, in imitation of their European master, (Napoleon,) trust more to treachery than to force; and they will, no doubt, make use of many of those lies which unfortunately for the virtuous part of these States and the peace and happiness of the world, had too much success during the American rebellion; they will tell you that they are come to give freedom—yes, the base slaves of the most contemptible faction that ever distracted the affairs of any nation—the minions of the very sycophants that lick the dust from the feet of Bonaparte, will tell you that they are come to communicate the blessings of liberty to this Province; but you have only to look at your situation to put such hypocrites to confusion.

'Trusting more to treachery than open hostility our enemies have already spread their emissaries through the country to seduce our fellow subjects from their allegiance by promises as false as the principles on which they are founded. A law has therefore been enacted for the speedy detection of such emissaries, and for their condign punishment on conviction—a law which it will not be easy to escape.

by the light of the history of 1812?

Committee of Congress on the Fortification of the American Northern Frontier, 1862, 1863. The Paragraphs are numbered for future reference.

1. We respectfully urge upon the consideration of Congress the following plan of defences for the Northern frontier. First. The establishment of shore defences at some commanding positions. This will require the erection of new fortifications and the repair and completion of some already located. Second. Taking into account the great superiority of the American merchant marine on the upper lakes—meaning all the lakes above the Falls of Niagara in ships, steamers and sailors, we regard our supremacy on the lakes as dependant, in a great degree, on our having the means at hand of arming the merchant marine at short notice. To this end the committee recommend the establishment of a foundry on the upper lakes; three naval depots, one on Lake Ontario, one on Lake Erie, and the other on Lake Michigan. Third. We earnestly recommend for military not less than commercial purposes, the improvement of the harbors on the lakes, the dredging out and widening of the channel over the St. Clair Flats. Fourth. The enlargement of the Illinois canals.

3. In regard to shore defences: The entrance to Lake Superior is through the Sault Ste Maria canal (Falls of St. Mary) a work