

BOW WAVE

Lakes. It is a side-reservoir, feeding the St. Lawrence by the Richelieu river. Although apart from the main fresh water highway in the War of 1812, Champlain floated battle craft of the same style as the greater lakes. These were manned by seamen who also fought on the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario. Pring, of the fighting *Linnet*, was one of Yeo's captains at the second attack on Sackett's Harbour. Downie himself was commander of the *Montreal* on Lake Ontario before hoisting his pennant over the fatal flagship *Confiance*. The tragedy at Plattsburg on Lake Champlain is not a grateful topic for a British writer, but it is not one which may be fairly passed over in an account of the fresh water fighting of the war. The pious valour of young Macdonough, the American champion in that fray, and the bulldog bravery of the goaded Downie, alike challenge the admiration of the world.

The tales here told come from the logs and letters of the captains and commodores whose broad-pennants waved from Kingston to Michillimackinac a century ago. The dry bones of record have been clothed with the flesh and blood of fancy, but from the price of pork to the colour of fighting flags the ancient chronicles have been faithfully followed. The