

the Heights. His position was most advantageous for bush-fighting. There was a succession of small, wooded ravines, and a confusion of knolls and undulating ground intersected by a perfect maze of bewildering little streams. He represented the extreme right front of the British as St. David's represented the extreme left front of the Americans.

Colonel Boerstler and 600 Americans left Fort George on the 23rd of June, spent the night at Queenston, and moved on next morning against Fitzgibbon's post. But Boerstler had no sooner begun his ten-mile march through the intricate bush than his flanks were beset by 250 Indians who could not be shaken off and who presently increased to over 400. His movements had already been reported; and his plan had been revealed to Fitzgibbon both by an Indian and by a heroic woman named Laura Secord.

The Secords were staunch Loyalists and had fought against the Americans both at the time of the Revolution and during the present war, when James Secord, Laura's husband, had been wounded at Queenston. St. David's was named after her brother-in-law, Major David Secord. Laura Secord, who was thirty-seven at this time, lived to be presented to King Edward VII in 1860, when he was in Canada as Prince of Wales. It was on the night of the 22nd that she overheard some Americans discussing the plan that Boerstler was to put in operation next day. As her husband's wounds were still disabling him, and as there was no other man available, she determined to go and warn Fitzgibbon herself, starting early in the morning of the 23rd. For several miles she was in constant danger of the Americans, who had pushed their outposts forward, in anticipation of Boerstler's advance. After nineteen miles of roundabout roads, sticky with the mud made by the heavy rains, she arrived at an Indian encampment, worn out by her exertions under a torrid sun. The astonished braves sprang to their feet with a yell; and she had the greatest difficulty in persuading