

one small cannon, should have reached its destination, found there a fort mounting six guns supported by a gunboat or floating battery of fourteen guns, and should have driven off the gunboat and compelled the fort to surrender, would have been a story quite incredible were it not confirmed by the official reports. By following the route of the first French explorers, up the Fox River and down the Wisconsin, the party reached Prairie du Chien on the seventeenth of July. On the nineteenth they had accomplished their purpose and were ready to return. The incidents of their long journey must be left to the imagination; and we may try to imagine how they were received when they returned victorious, and learned that in their absence Michilimackinac had been attacked by five ships from Detroit, and had successfully resisted the attack.

Another notable event took place on the nineteenth of July. The little village of St. David's, near Queenston, was burned by order of Colonel Stone, who was in command of a party of the invaders. This was done without any special provocation, other than that the colonel considered it a nest of Tories. It must be added, to the credit of General Brown, that as soon as he heard of it he punished Colonel Stone by abruptly dismissing him from the army without trial.

July 25.—Every boy in Canada who has read his Canadian history knows of the battle of Lundy's Lane, the fiercest of all the battles of the war; the battle that was fought at night, with the roar of the Falls of Niagara mingling with the sounds of the conflict. Some may not know that United States historians have claimed a victory for their army in the battle of Bridgewater, and that this is the same battle under another name.

A monument marks the battlefield. Years ago, it is said, the caretaker of the place, wishing to please his visitors, had two stories to tell; one for Canadian visitors, and one for those who came from the United States. It happened one day that among the visitors was General Winfield Scott, of the United States army, who had led the first attack and had been wounded in the thickest of the fight. The courteous narrator mistook him for a British officer, and told the wrong story. Probably neither of his stories was quite correct.

The battle began at six o'clock on the evening of the twenty-fifth of July. General Riall, with about a thousand men, finding his position attacked, as he supposed, by an army of four thousand, began a hasty retreat. Just then General Drummond came up with eight hundred more troops, and took command. He countermanded the retreat and formed his men in order of battle. The invaders, who had not as yet their whole army on the ground, attempted to gain the hilltop which the British had suddenly left and as suddenly reoccupied. In this they failed; but they got possession of five of the British field guns, by an attack so sudden and unexpected that every man at the guns was killed.

There are contradictory accounts of what followed, but some things are undisputed. Riall was wounded and taken prisoner. Both Drummond and Brown were wounded later. About nine o'clock, both sides were reinforced; thus bringing the British strength up to three thousand, and bringing into action the enemy's full force, with the exception of Scott's brigade which had left the field after suffering severely in the first assault. The additional British troops were wearied by a march of twenty miles in the heat of the day; but their arrival made the numbers nearly equal, as in fact they had been throughout. The battle went on in darkness and confusion, with varying incidents of repulse and rally and renewed attack, but with little advantage for either side. About midnight the fighting ceased, perhaps because both armies were exhausted. The British still held the hill, from which they had not been driven; and the enemy moved off unpursued, retreating towards Fort Erie.

The British either recaptured their guns or found them next morning on the field where the enemy had left them. Whichever is true, in the end the British has lost one gun and had gained two. And, whatever else is doubtful, there is no question about the severity of the struggle. The losses were very heavy. Nor is there any question that General Drummond looked upon it as a decisive victory; for he immediately disbanded all the sedentary militia and sent them home to look after their crops.

The battle of Lundy's Lane still remains the last important battle fought in Canadian territory.

