

## BINGEN.

BY HON. MRS. NORTON.

A soldier of the Legion lay dying in Algiers,  
There was lack of woman's nursing, there was  
dearth of woman's tears;  
But a comrade stood beside him, while his life-  
blood ebbed away,  
And bent with pitying glances to hear what he  
might say.  
The dying soldier flutter'd as he took that com-  
rade's hand,  
And he said, "I never more shall see my own,  
my native land;  
Take a message and a token to some distant  
friends of mine,  
For I was born at Bingen—at Bingen on the  
Rhine.

"Tell my brothers and companions when they  
meet and crowd around,  
To hear my mournful story in the pleasant vine-  
yard ground,  
That we fought the battle bravely and when the  
day was done,  
Full many a comrade lay ghastly pale beneath the  
setting sun,  
And midst the dead and dying were some grown  
old in wars.  
The death wound on their gallant breasts—the  
last of many scars;  
But some were young—and suddenly beheld life's  
morn decline—  
And one had come from Bingen—fair Bingen on  
the Rhine!

"Tell my mother that her other sons shall com-  
fort her old age,  
And I was yea a truant bird that thought his  
home a cage;  
For my father was a soldier and even as a child,  
My heart leaped forth to hear him tell of strug-  
gles fierce and wild;  
And when he did and left us to divide his scanty  
board,  
I let them take what ere they would—but kept  
my father's sword;  
And with boyish love I hung it where the bright  
light used to shine,  
On the cottage wall at Bingen—fair Bingen on  
the Rhine.

"Tell my sister not to weep for me and sob with  
drooping head,  
When the troops are marching home again with  
glad and gallant tread,  
But look upon them proudly with a clear and  
steadfast eye,  
For her brother was a soldier and not afraid to  
die.  
And if a comrade seeks her love I ask her in my  
name,  
To listen to him kindly, without regret or shame;  
And to hang the old sword in his place, (my  
father's sword and mine),  
For the honor of old Bingen—dear Bingen on the  
Rhine!

"There's another—not a sister—in the happy  
days gone by  
You'd have known her by the merriment that  
sparkled in her eye;  
Too innocent for coquetry—too fond for idle  
scorning,  
Oh! friend I fear that lightest heart makes some-  
times heaviest mourning!  
Tell her the last night of my life, for see this  
moon has risen,  
My body will be out of pain, my soul be out of  
prison;  
I dream'd I stood with her and saw the yellow  
sunlight shine  
On the vine-clad hills of Bingen—fair Bingen on  
the Rhine!

"I saw the blue Rhine: weep along, I heard or  
seem'd to hear,  
The German songs we used to sing in chorus  
sweet and clear;  
And down the pleasant river and up the slanting  
hill,  
That echoing chorus sounded through the even-  
ing calm and still:  
And her glad blue eyes were on me as we pass'd  
with friendly talk,  
Down many a path belov'd of yore, and well re-  
membered walk;  
And her little hand lay lightly, confidently in  
mine,  
But we'll meet no more at Bingen—loved Bingen  
on the Rhine!

His voice grew faint and hoarser—his grasp was  
childish weak,  
His eyes put on a dying look—he sighed and ceas-  
ed to speak.  
His comrade bent to lift him but the spark of  
life had fled,  
The soldier of the Legion in a foreign land was  
dead;  
And the soft moon rose up slowly and calm she  
looked down,  
On the red sand of the battle field with bloody  
corpses strewn;  
Yes, calmly on that dreadful scene her pale light  
seem'd to shine,  
As it shone on distant Bingen—fair Bingen on the  
Rhine!

## THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

## XXII.

Early in April, 1814, the American Gen-  
eral Brown marched from Sackett's harbor  
to Buffalo, where he remained drilling his  
troops and receiving reinforcements till the  
middle of June, when he was ordered to pre-  
pare for the fifth attempt at invading Cana-  
da, but it was the 2nd of July before he  
could put his force in motion. His force  
consisted of 2380 rank and file of the regu-  
lar troops of the United States, 400 artillery-  
men having in charge eight field pieces and  
two howitzers, a squadron of dragoons of 70  
men, 900 Militia Volunteers and about 150  
Indians, making a grand total of 4100 rank  
and file. Between Erie and Lewiston there  
was a force of over 900 men, the militia  
of the district could muster 2500 men and  
Commodore Chauncey might bring from  
Sackett's Harbor 4000 so that the force  
available for the fifth invasion of Canada  
would number nearly 10,000 men.

The whole British force available, regu-  
lars, militia and Indians, would not exceed  
2500 men, of which 1780 would be regular  
soldiers; out of this complement Forts Erie,  
George, Mississauga, Niagara (in the United  
States), and the post at Burlington Heights,  
were garrisoned; the whole extent of frontier  
to be defended was full 70 miles in length.

On the morning of the 3rd July the Am-  
erican army crossed the strait in two divi-  
sions, one landing a mile and a half below the  
other about the same distance above Fort  
Erie, against which they immediately march-  
ed. Having planted a battery of 18 pound-  
ers and fired a few shots, the garrison,  
which consisted of two companies of the 8th  
and 100th regiments, with a few artillerymen,  
the whole commanded by Major Buck of the  
8th, were summoned and having sustained  
no greater loss than one man killed, surren-  
dered to the number of 170 officers and men  
and were at once taken across the river.

This disgraceful surrender compromised  
General Hall in command of the frontier  
and led to the disastrous battle of Chipp-  
eway; the following is the official despatch of  
that action:

CHIPPWAY, July 6th, 1814.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that  
the enemy effected a landing on the morn-  
ing of the 3rd inst., at the ferry opposite  
Blackrock, having driven in the picket of  
the garrison of Fort Erie. I was made ac-  
quainted with the circumstances about eight  
in the morning and gave orders for the im-  
mediate advance to Chippeway of five com-  
panies of the Royal Scots, under Lieut.  
Col. Gordon, to reinforce the garrison of that  
place. Lieut. Col. Pearson had moved for-  
ward from there with the light companies of  
the 100th, some militia and a few Indians to  
reconnoitre their position and numbers; he  
found them posted on the ridge parallel  
with the river and in strong force. I receiv-  
ed instructions from Major Buck that they  
had also landed a considerable force above  
Fort Erie. In consequence of the King's  
regiment, which I had every reason to ex-  
pect the day before from York, not having  
arrived, I was prevented from making an at-

tack that night. The following morning,  
(the 4th), a body of their troops were report-  
ed to be advancing by the river, I moved to  
reconnoitre and found them to be in consi-  
derable force with cavalry and artillery and  
a large body of riflemen. Lieut. Col. Pearson  
was in advance during this recon-  
naissance with the light company of the Roy-  
al Scots and the flank company of the 100th  
and a few of the 19th light dragoons, four of  
whom and eight horses were wounded in  
a skirmish with the enemy's riflemen. Hav-  
ing been joined by the King's regiment on  
the morning of the 5th I made my disposi-  
tions for attack at four o'clock in the after-  
noon. The light companies of the Royal  
Scots and 100th regiments, with the 2nd  
Lincoln Militia, formed the advance under  
Lieut. Col. Pearson. The Indian warriors  
were thrown out on our right flank in the  
woods. The troops moved in three columns  
the third (the King's regt.) being in advance.  
The enemy had taken up a position with his  
right resting on some buildings and  
orchards close on the river Niagara and  
strongly supported by artillery; his left to-  
wards the wood having a considerable body  
of riflemen and Indians in front of it.

Our Indians and militia were shortly en-  
gaged with the enemy's riflemen and Indians  
who at first checked their advance but the  
light troops being brought to their support  
they succeeded, after a sharp contest, in  
dislodging them in a very handsome style.

I placed two light 24-pounders and a 5½  
inch howitzer against the right of the  
enemy's position and formed the Royal  
Scots and 100th regiments, with the inten-  
tion of making a movement upon his left,  
which deployed with the greatest regularity  
and opened a very heavy fire. I immedi-  
ately moved up the King's regiment to the  
right while the Royal Scots and 100th regt.  
were directed to charge the enemy in front,  
for which they advanced with the greatest  
gallantry under a most destructive fire. I  
am sorry to say, however, in this attempt  
they suffered so severely that I was obliged  
to withdraw them finding their further ef-  
forts against the superior numbers of the  
enemy would be unavailing. Lieut. Col.  
Gordon and Lt. Col. the Marquis of Twe-  
dale, commanding these regiments, being  
wounded as were most of the officers belong-  
ing to each. I directed a retreat to be  
made upon Chippeway which was conduct-  
ed with good order and regularity, covered  
by the King's regt. under Major Evans and  
the light troops under Lieut. Col. Pearson.  
and I have pleasure in saying that not a  
single prisoner fell into the enemy's hands  
except those who were disabled by wounds.  
From the report of some prisoners we have  
made, the enemy's force amounts to nearly  
6000 men with a very numerous train of ar-  
tillery having been augmented by a very  
large body of troops which moved down from  
Fort Erie immediately before the commence-  
ment of the action. Our own force in re-  
gular troops amounted to about 1500 exclu-  
sive of the Militia and Indians of which last  
description there was not above 300. For  
Erie, I understand, surrendered upon capi-  
tulation on the 3rd inst. Although this af-  
fair was not attended with the success which  
I had hoped for, it will be gratifying for you  
to learn that the officers and men behaved  
with the greatest gallantry. I am particu-  
larly indebted to Lieut. Col. Pearson for  
the very great assistance I have received  
from him and for the manner in which he led  
his troops into action. Lieut. Col. Gordon  
and Lieut. Colonel the Marquis of Twe-  
dale and Major Evans, commanding the King's  
regiment, merit my warmest praise for the  
good examples they showed at the head of  
their respective regiments.