

and 221 wounded.* This was the best-fought battle of the whole war. The Americans retreated to their own shores and Montreal was saved. The value of this victory was much enhanced by the fact that it was badly needed to revive the spirits of the Canadian people. The whole of the western peninsula had been lost by Procter's defeat at Moraviantown; Niagara and Fort Erie were in the hands of the enemy; and the small army of General Vincent was preparing to withstand a siege at Burlington Heights. York had been twice taken during the year, and a large amount of property destroyed. Thus the fortunes of the British were at the lowest point during the war. The victory of Crysler's Farm restored confidence, and was the beginning of the end. The British government recognized its importance by granting a medal for this victory. The value of this will be understood when it is recalled that medals were granted for only two other engagements during the war, for Detroit and for Chateauguay. The government of the United States was equally cognizant of this victory, for General Wilkinson, their commander, was court-martialed, and General Boyd's services were not retained on the reduction of their army at the close of the war.

The inhabitants of the County of Dundas, every one a soldier, deserve a large share of credit for the victory. They were the first settlers along the river to offer any resistance to the flotilla. They detained the invaders by an organized system that kept the enemy in constant terror. They employed the same tactics by which they spread consternation among the rebels during the revolutionary war. Always invisible, but ever present, they forced the invaders to fight and then defeated them. The highest tribute to the people of Dundas is paid them by Gen. Wilkinson, who says in his despatch:—"The enemy deserve credit for their zeal and intelligence, which the active universal hostility of the male inhabitants of the country enable them to employ to the greatest advantage. Thus while menaced by a respectable force in rear, the coast was lined by musketry in front, at every critical pass of the river, which obliged me to march a detachment and thus impeded my progress."

The British commander also testifies to the zeal which all classes had shown in their endeavors to oppose the threatened invasion. For Sir George Prevost says for the information of His Majesty's Government that "The very great exertions made for the preservation of the Canadas by its population in conjunction

*The British put the American loss at 600 to 700 killed and wounded, and 180 prisoners. (Col. Harvey's letter of 12th Nov. in "*Ten Years of Upper Canada*," by Lady Edgar.) This is a close approximation to the result deduced from the councils of war held by Wilkinson. On Nov. 9th, at Tuttle's Bay, in the township of Matilda, he states he has 7,000 effective troops. On the 12th at Barnhart's Island near Cornwall he states he has only 6,000. Thus in three days the loss was 1,000 men, and as there was only a skirmish at Hoople's Creek near the head of the Long Sault, 800 at least may be credited to the engagement at Crysler's Farm on the 11th, a number equal to two-thirds of the whole British force.