

HISTORY OF THE WAR OF 1812.

CHAPTER I.

Origin of the War.—Bad Feeling after the Revolution towards Great Britain.—The Rise of Parties in the United States.—The Right of Search.—The Case of Commodore Wilkes.—The Jay Treaty—Denounced by the Democratic Party.—The Berlin and Milan Decrees.—Unfortunate Position of the Neutral Trader.—British Orders in Council.—Jefferson Suppresses the Treaty with England made by Pinkney.—The Leopard and Chesapeake Affair.—The American Embargo Act.—The President and Little Belt.—Warlike Feeling Grows More Intense.—The United States Strengthens Its Army.—Hopes and Expectations of the Americans.

The war which began in the year 1812 between Great Britain and the United States of America, although it originated in an Imperial quarrel, and was carried on mainly by British money and largely by British troops, was essentially a Canadian contest. Canada was the scene of most of the battles of the war ; it was for the purpose of separating Canada from the British crown that the war was undertaken ; and it was owing to the loyalty, constancy and courage of the Canadian people that this object was foiled. Every Canadian can, therefore, look back with feelings of just pride at this war so honorable to his ancestors, and so worthy of being remembered for the example which it affords of the difficulty of subduing a resolute and free