

set up housekeeping on his own account. Their lives were simple and frugal and virtuous, but education was greatly neglected. Very few of the Acadians could read or write, and the literature of the world was a sealed book to them. This, however, was a condition not peculiar to the Acadians, but which also existed among the peasantry of France from which they sprang. In those days it was not thought necessary that a mere tiller of the soil should be able to read or write; indeed it was not until the present century that the great awakening took place as to the advantages of education which has placed that great blessing within reach of the humblest and made ignorance appear a badge of inferiority and disgrace.

THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE.

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The importance of the War of 1812 is not yet fully realized by English historians, although there are strong indications that the British world is at last beginning to see dimly that the future of the British Empire is deeply involved in the growth and development of Canada. Had Canada been conquered in the War of 1812, the whole course of British history would have been changed, and that for the worse. Had the war not taken place when it did, it is possible that the process of americanizing Upper Canada, which was then going on, might have ended as similar processes in Texas and California ended at a later date. But the result of this war, which has usually been looked upon as a great evil, effectually checked the tendency of citizens of the United States to settle in Canada without any intention of becoming British subjects. On the outbreak of hostilities, those unwilling to take the oath of allegiance were forced to leave the country, and never since has American influence been an important factor in our political development.

Of the many battles fought during this bitter struggle, the Battle of Lundy's Lane was the most stubbornly and fiercely contested. So evenly were the antagonists matched that American historians have ever since claimed the battle as an American victory. Needless to say