

## BOW WAVE

classed at that time as "sloops-of-war"—a rating below that of frigates. The rapids of the St. Lawrence prevented the ascent to the lakes of vessels of the regular navies of both nations, but their crews were marched up by sparing handfuls to man such craft as could be bought or built to float guns. Ere the war closed Ontario, lowest of the five Great Lakes, floated frigates more powerful than any on the ocean, and boasted line-of-battleships rivalling Nelson's *Victory*. Following the treaty of Ghent, which closed the war, came a mutual and wise disarmament agreement, which, taking effect in 1818, banished battle from the Great Lakes for a hundred years; let us hope, forever. But ere the warships went, they left a rocket trail of glory, more brilliant, if less enduring, than the paler paths of peace.

This is a story book. It is not a history of all that occurred in the last war on the Great Lakes. *That* would be a large contract. But it tries to tell truly things which happened during the war; in such a way as to give some idea of the part fresh water played in a conflict which was only a detail in the wars of an empire, but a detail affecting the destinies of a continent.

Lake Champlain is not one of the Great