

No. 32. SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, D.C.L.

Sir John Franklin was born at Spilsby, Lincolnshire, April 16th, 1786. He was destined by his father for the ministry, by nature for the sea. While at the Grammar School at Lowth, he walked twelve miles to see the ocean for the first time. He was sent on a trading voyage to Lisbon to cure him of this bent; the voyage confirmed it. His father yielded to nature, and procured him a midshipman's warrant in 1800. He served on the *Polyphemus* at the battle of Copenhagen, April 2nd, 1801. In the *Investigator*, commanded by his cousin, Capt. Flinders, he spent two years exploring the coasts of Australia; she proved unseaworthy, and he sailed for home in the *Porpoise* in 1803, which was wrecked on a reef 200 miles from Australia, where he and his companions remained for fifty days on a sand-bank. They were carried to Canton, whence he sailed for England in the China fleet of Indiamen. In the Strait of Malacca they were attacked by a French squadron without success. At home he joined the *Bellerophon*, and of forty persons who stood about him at Trafalgar, but seven escaped unhurt. For six years afterward he served on the *Bedford*, capturing an American gumbot at New-Orleans, in the war of 1812. Here he was wounded, and made lieutenant. In 1818 he commanded the *Trent*, the smaller of two vessels which attempted the North East Passage to India. The larger was disabled, and Capt. Buchan, who commanded the expedition, refused to allow him to proceed alone. In 1819 he commanded an overland exploration from York Factory. In the three years of this expedition he performed a foot journey of 856 miles while the mercury was frozen, another foot journey of 500 miles, a long sea voyage in canoes, and was then obliged to return without having explored what he went for—the coast of the Arctic Ocean. He returned and was promoted in 1822. In 1823 he published an account of his voyage, and married Eleanor Porden, the daughter of an eminent architect. In 1825, he was placed at the head of another overland Arctic expedition. His wife, then at the point of death, insisted that he should go, and gave him as a parting gift a silk flag, to be hoisted when he reached the Polar Sea. She died the day after he sailed. On this journey he reached the ocean, and travelled westward, from the mouth of the Mackenzie River, 374 miles along the coast, to 149° 37' west longitude. He wintered at Great Bear Lake, where he instituted a series of magnetic observations. He went back to England by way of New York in 1827, and in 1828, he married Jane Griffin, the present Lady Franklin, and published an account of his second expedition. In 1829 he was knighted, received the degree of D. C. L. from Oxford and the gold medal of the Geographical Society of Paris. In 1830 he did service in the Greek revolution as commander of the *Rainbow*, and for his exertions in Greece received the order of the "Redeemer of Greece." He was Governor of Tasmania from 1836 to 1843, founded a college, and endowed it largely, established the Scientific Association of Hobarton, was very popular, and on his departure received an enthusiastic ovation. In 1845 he sailed in command of the *Erebus* and *Terror* on his last expedition. On the 6th of July of that year it was seen for the last time by white men from the deck of a whaling vessel. His return was expected in the fall of 1847, but at that time nothing had been heard from him later than July 12th, 1845. Eighteen or twenty vessels, English and American, have been sent in search. Lady Franklin persevered in her appeals until the public almost ceased to regard them. Her devotion has at least some reward. Doubt is exchanged for certainty.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

No. 33. MAJOR GENERAL SIR ISAAC BROCK, K.B.

Isaac Brock was the eighth son of John Brock, Esq. He was born in the island of Guernsey on the 6th October, 1769, the year which gave birth to Napoleon and Wellington. In his boyhood, he was like his brother, unusually tall, robust and precocious, and remarkable chiefly for his extreme gentleness. In his eleventh year he was sent to school at Southampton, and the following year finished his education in Rotterdam. In his fifteenth year he succeeded, by purchase, to the ensignancy of the 8th, the King's regiment, which had become vacant by the promotion of his brother John to a lieutenancy in the same regiment. In 1790 he was promoted to a lieutenancy and was quartered in Guernsey and Jersey. At the close of that year he obtained an independent company. Soon after he exchanged into the 49th, which was quartered at Barbadoes, and he remained there doing duty until 1793, when he returned to England on sick leave. On the 26th of June he purchased his Majority. On the completion of his twenty-eight year, on the 27th of Oct., 1797, he purchased the lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 49th and soon after became senior lieutenant-colonel. In 1799 his regiment embarked on an expedition to Holland under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and on its landing an engagement took place in which the British lost about 10,000 men. Lieut.-Colonel Brock distinguished himself very much during this campaign, and was wounded in the battle of Egmont-of-Yee on the 2nd October.

Early in 1801, the 49th was again embarked in the fleet destined for the Baltic under Sir Hyde Parker, and Lieutenant-Colonel Brock was the second in command of the land forces at the remarkable attack of Copenhagen, by Lord Nelson on the 2nd of April. The regiment returned to England soon afterwards, and in the spring of 1802 sailed for Canada.

Some eighteen months after his arrival in Canada a serious conspiracy was on the point of breaking out in Fort George, where part of the 49th was in garrison. By the promptitude of Lieutenant-Colonel Brock, however, the ringleaders were secured, tried by court martial and condemned to death. The sentence was carried out in Quebec early in March, 1804, where the men—four in all—were shot in the presence of the entire garrison. Lieutenant Colonel Brock was now directed to assume the command of Fort George, and all complaint and desertion instantly ceased, and the 49th became one of the best regiments of the line.

In 1805, our hero was made full Colonel, and returned in the fall of the year to England. While in England he laid before the Commander-in-Chief the outlines of a plan for the formation of a veteran battalion for Canada, which received the special thanks of the Duke of York. In 1806, while on a visit to his friends in Guernsey, the political feeling in the United States assumed a threatening aspect, and the Colonel returned to Canada.

In September, 1806, he succeeded to the command of the troops in the two Provinces, and made Quebec his residence. On the 2nd July, 1808, he was appointed to act as Brigadier. In 1810 he proceeded to the Upper Province, being replaced at Quebec by the Baron de Rottenburg. On the 4th of June, 1811, he was promoted and appointed by the Prince Regent to serve as a Major General on the Staff of North America.

In this month Sir James Craig, who had been in chief command of the North American Provinces, embarked for England, where he died some months after his arrival. He was succeeded by Sir George Prevost, who arrived at Quebec in September, and on the 9th of October Major General Brock, in addition to the command of the troops, was appointed President and Administrator of the Government in Upper Canada, in place of Lieutenant-Governor Gore, who had returned to England on leave. "At the close of the year," says Mr. Symons, in a pamphlet lately published by him on the battle of Queenston Heights, His Royal Highness the Duke of York expressed at length every inclination to gratify Major-General Brock's wishes for more active employment in Europe, and Sir George Prevost was authorised to replace him by another officer; but when the permission reached Canada early in 1812, a war with the United States was evidently near at hand, and Major General Brock, with such a prospect, was retained both by honor and inclination in the country, and he employed himself vigorously to the adoption of such precautionary measures as he deemed necessary to meet all future contingencies. From the first moment of being placed at the head of the Government, he appears to have been convinced that war was inevitable, and in consequence used every exertion to place the Province in as respectable a state of defence as his very limited means would admit. Immediately after war was declared, he made Fort George his head-quarters, and superintended the various defences of the river. He then went to York (now Toronto), where the Legislature was assembled, and having dispatched the public business, set out for Amherstburg on the 6th of August, with 250 militia, who cheerfully came forward to accompany him. The taking of Detroit soon followed, an achievement which his energy and decision crowned with such unqualified success, that the Government at home appointed him an extra Knight of the most Honorable Order of the Bath, and he was gazetted to this mark of his country's approbation, so gratifying to the feelings of a soldier, on the 10th of October, but he lived not long enough to learn that he had obtained so honorable a distinction, the knowledge of which would have cheered him in his last moments. On the 6th of October, when his despatches, accompanied by the colors of the U. S. 4th regiment reached London, the Park and Tower guns fired a salute, and in one short week afterwards Brock died."

The present Chief Justice of Upper Canada, Sir J. B. Robinson, who served under Major General Brock, and who was well acquainted with his character, thus bore testimony to his many excellent qualities at a meeting held on the 30th July, 1840, on Queenston Heights, to do honor to the departed hero:—"That portion of you, gentlemen, who were inhabitants of Upper Canada while General Brock served in its defence, are at no loss to account for the enthusiastic affection with which his memory is cherished among us. It was not merely on account of his intrepid courage and heroic firmness, neither was it solely because of his brilliant success while he lived, nor because he so nobly laid down his life in our defence; it was, I think, that he united in his person, in a very remarkable degree, some qualities which are peculiarly calculated to attract the confidence and affection of mankind. There was in all he said and did that honesty of character which was so justly ascribed to him by a