



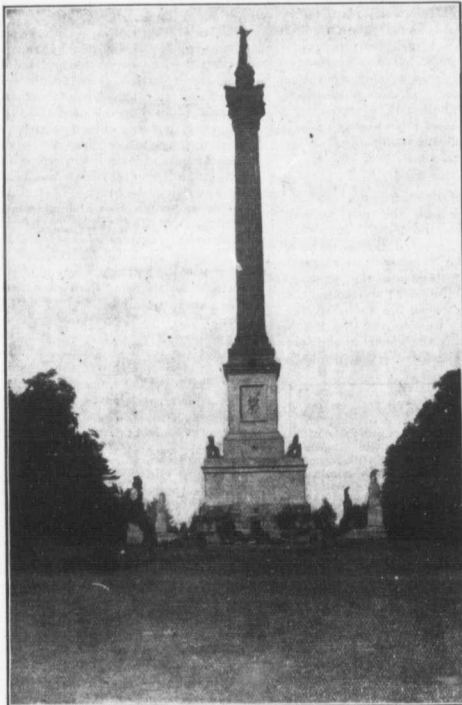
Notable Canadian Monuments



VII.—Brock's Monument

Sir Isaac Brock
1769-1812

JUST above the little village of Queenston, on the Niagara River, on a commanding site, there stands the fine monument erected to the memory of Sir Isaac Brock, the hero of Queenston Heights. By a flight of inside steps it is possible to climb to the top of this splendid pile of masonry, and although the walk is somewhat fatiguing, one is well re-



BROCK'S MONUMENT, AT QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

warded for the effort, for there stretches out to the view the most beautiful scenery that can be imagined. Away to the west are the fields, orchards and vineyards of the Garden of Canada, to the north and south, vistas of the beautiful Niagara River may be seen, and the broad expanse of Lake Ontario is only a few miles away, while across the river are the wooded shores of the State of New York. On a clear day the city of Toronto may be seen. Probably no other monument on the Continent has such a noble location.

The hero whose name is engraved on this monument deserves the recognition that has been given him for he was one of God's noblemen, a soldier, a statesman and a Christian, noted for his bravery, his generosity, his gentleness.

Isaac Brock was born Oct. 6, 1769, in Guernsey, and entered the British Army at the early age of 15. At twenty-eight he was a Lieut.-Colonel, who was distinguished for his personal character, and his general efficiency as an officer. In

1802 he was ordered to Canada where most of the rest of his life was spent.

When the war of 1812 broke out with the United States, General Brock took charge of the campaign, and at once showed great ability in dealing with difficult situations with promptness, swiftness of movement, and decision of character. We have no space to describe the events of the war, and a few words must suffice for the battle at which Brock lost his life. Miss Janet Carnochan, in a recent paper, read before the York pioneers, thus pictures the events of that fateful day:

"The period between the conquest of Detroit and the battle of Queenston Heights, gave opportunity to the enemy to prepare for another invasion and Brock's time was fully occupied. The problem was how to place his few soldiers so as to defend the Niagara frontier, as it was not known at what point the attack would be made, at Fort Erie, Chippewa, Queenston or Niagara, and night and day the force was on guard. Early on the morning of the 13th October the sound of guns was heard and Brock arose, and leaving orders to follow him, rode away up the Queenston road to meet the rider on the pale horse. A small force at Brown's Point of York militia, another at Vrooman's Battery, a few in Queenston, and a still smaller number on the Heights,—these were all at hand to resist a large American force, and at first these seemed enough as many of their boats were sunk and many taken prisoners, but a pilot had shown the way up the fisherman's path concealed from the view of our men and these soon had possession of the Heights. When Brock passed the York volunteers setting out from Brown's Point, he waved his hand and called out to them to push on. On reaching Queenston he boldly advanced up the heights with the few troops there, his tall person and general's uniform being a sure target for the enemy. A few words were all that could be heard ere his spirit took its flight. The body was carried to a stone house which still stands, and another attempt was made at 10 o'clock by the brave Adj. McDonnell, a young man of great promise; he, too, gave up his young life in the attempt to dislodge the enemy. Our forces, maddened by the death of their beloved leader, fought as never before and soon the enemy showed the white flag and nine hundred prisoners were taken. But, though victory crowned our arms, with what sad hearts did our men return bearing that form, majestic in death. The body was taken to Government House, where it lay for three days, and on the 16th, was committed to the grave in the Cavalier bastion of Fort George, lately constructed under the general's orders."

The first monument was erected in 1824, the money being granted by the Provincial Parliament. In 1840 it was wrecked by gunpowder through the action of some miscreants. Universal execration was meted out to this deed, and on the 30th July, 1840, an immense meeting of 8,000 persons was held on Queenston Heights, producing one of the most remarkable scenic effects ever beheld in Canada. Ten steamers ascended the river headed by H. M. S. Traveller, a procession was formed on land at the same time and cheers were heard from ship to shore and shore to ship alternately. The presence of the Royal Artillery, the 93rd Highlanders and the burnished helmets of the Dragon Guards added brilliancy to the scene. Eloquent speeches were made by many noted men of that day.

Immediate steps were taken to replace the monument. This time the money was raised by subscription, all the military in the country giving a day's pay and subscriptions from all classes flowed in generously till \$50,000 was raised. It was not, however, till 1853 that the last burial took place, the