

ing is from an account of the battle as given in a widely read history for schools :

"At midnight the British gave up their efforts, and left the Americans in possession of the field. This battle of Lundy's Lane, or Bridgewater, was one of the most hotly contested actions ever fought in the new world. Three thousand Americans and 4,500 British took part in it. The former lost 743 in killed and wounded ; the latter, 878."

The above is complete fable. The requirements of grave historical accuracy overturn nearly every statement made.

"At midnight the Americans gave up their efforts, and left the British in possession of the field. . . . Four thousand Americans and 2,840 British took part in it. The former lost about 1,200 ; the latter, 878."

The second in command of the United States forces, General Peter B. Porter, in a letter recently published by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, dated Aug. 12th, 1814, and addressed to D. D. Tompkins, Governor of New York State, specifically calls the battle "a defeat," in which "the dead, the wounded, and captured artillery and our hard-earned honor were left to the enemy." The general who commanded the American forces at the close of the battle (Brown, Scott and Porter all being wounded and *hors de combat*) was court-martialed, as were Hull after his defeat at Detroit, Proctor after his defeat on the Thames, Prevost after his defeat at Plattsburg. It is true the court-martial terminated abruptly with General Ripley's acquittal—for a verbatim account, again consult the Transactions of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society—but it was as a defeated general that he was brought to account.

The admirable Josiah Quincy, whose life and character Lowell has outlined for us in his essay, "A great public character" in "My Study Windows,"

was bitterly opposed to the invasion of Canada, which he characterized as a "buccaneering expedition." When disaster followed disaster, he regarded these as by no means so disgraceful as the initial crime of the invasion. Many patriotic Americans have agreed with Quincy ; but that is by the way. Certainly one undoubted disgrace still remains to be wiped out ; the narration of the history of the war as far as American writers have undertaken the task. The Canadian, Kingsford, in the eighth volume of his "History of Canada," has done good work ; but we want it done from the American standpoint. As matters stand at present, American visitors to the peninsula, in quoting their historians as authorities, expose themselves to ridicule.

To quote one signal instance out of many. Any serious student of the campaign of 1813 knows that the lowest point in the fortunes of the British defenders of Upper Canada was reached when Chauncey, with his fleet, landed a victorious army of 4,000 men at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and left General Dearborn master of the situation. The British hurriedly evacuated Fort George and retreated to their last rallying-point at Burlington Heights, near what is now the prosperous city of Hamilton. Until reinforcements should arrive they numbered barely 1,500 men, in all respects badly equipped. The victorious American army, nearly 4,000 strong, moved along the lake shore to drive them from their position ; and to await the attack probably meant defeat and the loss of the province. On June 5th the invaders were but seven miles off, at Stony Creek, in a well-chosen camping-ground. This date marks the turning point of the war. A brilliant exploit on the part of the forces at bay changed the attacked into pursuers, and completely demoralized the invading army, so that hereforward it accomplished nothing. A chosen band