

IRISH CANADA TO IRISH AMERICA.

BY KORN KORN, JUN.

Hark! the ffin' and drummin', hurroo, hurroo
they're comin',
Ould Ireland to free upon Canada's soil!
Irish grievances all in one grand total summin'
These patriots' vow on our head shall recoil.

They have sworn by thunder to lay waste and
plunder,
And deluge our fair smillin' Province with
blood.

The tie, which unites us to Britain, to sunder,
And make us break faith with Victoria the
good.

Very good, then, we're waitin', come on wid
you're batin',
We'll show you who's who in a couple of shakes,
We'll settle your cases, ye oil-hoops of Satan,
As his Reverence, St. Patrick, once settled the
snakes.

You talk of fightin' for Ireland and rightin'
The wrongs of the past by fresh wrongs upon us;
You talk of oppression while here you're incitin'
You cut-throats to pillage and murder us thus!

Bah! have done wid your blather, we Provincials
are rather
Too old to be fooled by such miserable rant.
I'm from what happened at Ridgeway, you surely
might gather
That reach Ireland thro' our land you certainly
can't.

Stay at home wid your rallin' 'bout England's
misdealin';
On republican soil you may rant and may rail,
But round Canada's border don't come your coat
trailin',
For you'll find plenty ready to step on its tail!

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

VI.

The attempt on the extreme right of the British line of defence at Fort Erie, its spirited repulse with the ignominious flight of General Smyth and the cowardice and insubordination of his troops furnished the closing events of the campaign of 1812 on the western frontier.

On the southern and eastern frontiers the operations of the campaign of that year had been very trivial. A strong force of 600 American troops had garrisoned Ogdensburg early in autumn, it was under the command of General Brown. Prescott, on the Canadian shore, opposite and distant 1800 yards, was defended by a regular work known as Fort Wellington, mounting four guns, 18-pounders; the inhabitants of the surrounding country anxious for their *ken roosts* had erected an open shore battery of mud and mounted thereon some thirteen old guns which formerly belonged to the old French fort at Isle Royale, and had lain there since the days of General Amherst's expedition in 1760, honey combed and useless. In 1810 Sir James Craig, apprehensive of the coming contest, had ordered their trunions to be knocked off so as to prevent the possibility of mounting them, but it seems he knew little of Canadian ingenuity and resource, for they were transported to and mounted on this breastwork by means of Gimbals made of iron hoops and wooden carriages.

The fort was garrisoned by eight artillerymen, two companies of Canadian fencibles and 40 men of the Newfoundland regiment, in all about 150 officers and men. With the few Canadian militiamen the district afforded, sufficient to keep the valient gar rison

at Ogdensburg in order. But there were some adventurous spirits in that garrison, and a Captain Forsythe thereof planned an expedition against Gananoque which at that time consisted of a saw mill, a roadside tavern, and the home of a gallant but eccentric U.E. Loyalist of the name of Stone, who held a commission as colonel in the militia.

The gallant Forsythe with a force of 104 men landed before daylight of 21st September, and after some trifling resistance on the part of a small party of militia succeeded in capturing Colonel Stone's house, desperately wounding Mrs. Stone and acquiring two kegs of ball cartridges and 30 muskets in a case; they burned the saw mill and tavern and retreated having lost 10 men killed with several wounded, while the militia that opposed them and inflicted this loss had one man killed and five or six wounded; the gallant captain's command carried off all poultry and other articles of consumption they could lay hands on.

On the 2nd October the people of Prescott opened fire on Ogdensburg, but the only loss resulting was that caused by the bursting of one of the old guns in the shore battery.

On the 4th of October Colonel Lethbridge, who had assumed the command at Fort Wellington, being reinforced by 150 of the Glengarry Highlanders, who had made a forced march from Cornwall, made an attack on the American Forts at Ogdensburg but was beaten off with some loss.

As a military operation this attack was badly devised and worse executed; instead of trying to turn the American works below the town, Colonel Lethbridge attacked directly in front, while Captain Skinner with the artillerymen and 40 soldiers of the Newfoundland regiment silenced the battery below the town, and if supported would have carried the other defences as General Brown had issued orders to retire if the British had followed up their advantages.

The American strategists recognising the value of the line of operations by the valley of Lake Champlain, had concentrated what they called the "Army of Canada," at Plattsburgh, on the Saranac river on its North Western shore, Montreal being their objective point. This force consisted of 5737 men of the regular American army and about 2500 militia making in all over 8000 men. The American Secretary at War had issued orders to Major General Dearborn in command to move at once on Montreal, and for this purpose the force was divided into two brigades under Generals Bloomfield and Chandler, and on the 15th November occupied the village of Champlain, situated about six miles from the boundary line. When this movement became known at Montreal the brigade of British troops consisting of the 5th and Glengarry regiments, about 1300, with 600 militia crossed the St. Lawrence and marched for La Prairie, where they arrived at midnight. Both armies

were now within a few miles of each other, the British occupying a block house at the river La Collo, and having an advanced piquet composed of Indians and voyageurs in all about 40 men in advance of it.

At two o'clock on the morning of the 19th November, Lieut.-Col. Pike with a strong detachment of cavalry supported by 300 men of the 15th United States regiment and some militia moved across the lines for the purpose of reconnoitering, were encountered by the piquet, fired upon, and in the darkness, being thrown into confusion, they fired on each other, and finally, having sustained a loss of between 30 and 40 men retired in confusion. The American army immediately broke up from Champlain and hurriedly retreated to Plattsburgh and Burlington where they went into winter quarters, and this movement terminated the campaign on the eastern frontier.

The plan of the campaign for 1813, as unfolded by the American Secretary at War, contemplated on the southern and western frontiers the reduction of Prescott and Kingston, York, now Toronto, and Forts George and Erie. The whole British force on this line is estimated by the same authority as follows:—"Prescott, 300 Kingston 600, at Forts George and Erie 1200, making a total of 2100 troops." Against this a force of 6000 men properly equipped and supported were to be launched, and no doubts were entertained of the issue of the struggle.

On the night of the 6th of February, 1813, the gallant Capt. Forsythe again issued from Ogdensburg and made a raid on Brockville, at that time called Elizabethtown, where his command liberated the prisoners in gaol, captured all the male inhabitants with about 140 stand of arms, and carried away horses, hogs and poultry.

In order to put a stop to this course of proceedings Colonel Pearson, who now commanded at Fort Wellington, despatched Major Macdonald on the 19th of the same month with a flag of truce to Ogdensburg to remonstrate with the American commanding officer on such extraordinary proceedings. The American officers behaved very insolently to Major Macdonald and the commanding officer endeavoured to extort a pledge from him that he would engage Colonel Pearson to meet him and his men on the ice in front of the town. The Major replied that he could not pledge Colonel Pearson, but in two days time the command of Fort Wellington would devolve on himself and that he would not have the slightest objection to indulge the wish of the American commandant. On the day mentioned Major Macdonald succeeded to the command, and the same evening Sir George Prevost arrived at Prescott on his way to Kingston; the Major immediately informed him of the circumstances and after much discussion persuaded him to give a reluctant assent to a "demonstration" which might occupy the garrison and prevent any attempt at inter