

BOW WAVE

to the purposes of peace as Broadway or the Strand.

But a hundred years ago, pike and cutlass heroes who fought the Battle of the Baltic and triumphed at Trafalgar, the same pig-tailed bluejackets who fill the pages of Marryat with glee and glory, these same dare-devil tars ploughed the Great Lakes with plentiful furrows. They locked yardarms and gave broadside for broadside with the Tom Coffins and Barnstaples of Fenimore Cooper's fancy. Despite the cataracts which then isolated Ontario and Superior the Great Lakes were, even in those days, the highway to the heart of North America. With no railways and few roads hewn through the wilderness the waterways of the continent were the all-important means of communication. Thus it came that in the three-year struggle between Great Britain and the United States, known as the War of 1812, these inland seas were the scene of continuous conflict.

In the earlier stages of the war the ships which fought the fresh water fights were often cockleshells of fore-and-aft rig—cutters, sloops and schooners which had been converted from the peaceful pursuits of lake commerce to the purposes of war. Even the largest craft were less formidable than the salt water vessels