

II.—*The Administration of Sir James Craig.—A Chapter in Canadian History.*

By LIEUT.-COL. CRUIKSHANK.

(Read May 26th, 1908.)

The lamentable attack upon the frigate *Chesapeake* on June 21st, 1807, at once brought the United States and Great Britain to the verge of war. A portion of the militia of Lower Canada were immediately embodied, and seem to have obeyed the call with great alacrity. A soldier of high reputation, Sir James Henry Craig, lately in command of the British army of occupation in Sicily, was appointed Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the forces in British North America, and a division of ten thousand regular troops was detailed for the reinforcement of the garrisons in those provinces. This distinguished officer had attained the rank of lieutenant-general through long and meritorious service and laborious study of his profession, of which he had acquired an intimate and practical knowledge in all its branches. Born at Gibraltar in 1748, he had entered the army as ensign in 1763, but obtained permission to pursue his education in the best military schools of the Continent, where he remained for several years and became proficient in the French language. During the revolutionary struggle he had served in America from the beginning of the war. He commanded a company of the 47th Regiment and was severely wounded in the assault of the insurgents' position at Bunker's Hill, and next year accompanied Lieut.-General Burgoyne to Canada. He took part in the action at Three Rivers, and afterwards commanded the advance guard of the force engaged in the pursuit of the Americans until they were finally expelled from the province. In the spring of 1777, he was put in command of a considerable body of French-Canadian militia, which was embodied to co-operate with the regular troops in their advance upon Albany. He was wounded in the engagement at Hubbardton, and again in that at Freeman's Farm. His ability and good conduct were so conspicuous during the campaign that Burgoyne appointed him one of the officers to whom was entrusted the painful duty of arranging the terms of capitulation with General Gates. Being then sent to England with despatches, he was promoted to be major without purchase and returned to America with little delay. He next served under Brigadier-General Allan Maclean during the defence of Penobscot, and joined Lord Cornwallis in North Carolina in 1781, under whose command he displayed such readiness and good judgment in the conduct of light