

Two generations have passed since this dreary condition of Canadian life was ended, but there are those living who can bear testimony to it and still think of those days with bitterness.

A few months before Dunn's retirement from his position the painful episode of the "Leopard" and "Chesapeake" took place. On the 21st of June, 1807, the "Leopard," commanded by captain Humphreys, acting under positive orders from admiral Berkeley, met the "Chesapeake" about fourteen miles from land off Chesapeake bay, under the command of commodore Barron, and demanded some British deserters who were on board. On Barron's refusal to allow any search, the "Leopard" fired a broadside into the "Chesapeake," and took the men by force. The "Chesapeake" reported that in the attack six men were killed and thirty-three wounded.

It is necessary here only to make allusion to the event, for sir James Craig arrived in the middle of October to assume the duties of governor, and the consequences which followed can be more appropriately related in the narrative of his government. One consequence, however, followed before Craig's arrival.

In August Dunn caused the militia to be ballotted for. The relations with the United States, before this unfortunate incident, had become extremely unsatisfactory, and continual apprehensions had been entertained during the summer that hostilities might arise. The tone of the United States press on the affair of the "Chesapeake" became most threatening; and there appeared little hope of any amicable adjustment. Indeed, it looked at one time as if the province would be invaded before reinforcements could arrive; a line of action sustained by the theory that a party in Canada was prepared to welcome the United States troops as deliverers from bondage. This absurd and offensive view is still persistently indulged in by a class of United States public men, certainly not the wisest. It can only be described as a groundless and impertinent folly.

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