

right, to support the regular Division, which had been sorely pressed by superior numbers.

It was here that the Brigadier General commanding the Rifle Brigade, met his death. Rash and impetuous, he separated himself from his troops, to attain a commanding position from which to observe the enemy's movements. Being watched, he was surrounded and shot down, sword in hand, trying to cut his way back to our lines. Greatly loved in his Brigade, his death nerved every man with a spirit of revenge that rendered them resistless, and shortly afterwards encountering the enemy they charged with a fury that drove everything before them.

Although this had not been contemplated his success was such that it was immediately followed up, and our right gradually swung round in pursuit, the enemy being driven towards our centre.

The order was at this time given us to change front, and our line gradually swung round at right angles to our first position, our right resting on the Railroad track, down which the enemy were rapidly retiring. Twice they turned and charged us, but we kept our ground, and pouring in a volley returned the charge. The enemy could not stand the bayonet, their ranks were broken and they fled in utter confusion. We followed without giving them a moment to recover from their panic, until they were driven pell-mell upon the force mentioned as attacking our position on the left.

This had been a sluggish proceeding, merely a division, but the complete rout of the other column, and the advance of our reserve Divisions from their earthworks destroyed their formation, and hemmed in by our advancing forces, and their line of retreat confined to one narrow road, the rout became general. Driven down into the swamps adjoining Dundas, or surrounded by our advancing forces, large numbers were taken prisoners, while our guns played ceaselessly on the masses jammed in the road, ceasing only when their grape and canister became destructive in the town. Here the flying masses were met by their reserve, thus tardily advancing, and whose guns protected their retreat from the opposite heights.

Satisfied that the blow was decisive, our troops tired as they were, were divided into two columns, one to pursue the flying enemy the other to advance on Guelph, and, if possible, capture or destroy the force there. Thus they accomplished successfully, for cutting off the retreat by the lines of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways, and bringing down the force assembled at Fergus, the enemy were surrounded, and they laid down their arms on the 18th inst.

On our part, we pursued the enemy to the frontier without a halt, except such as were forced by their demonstrations at Jordan and Thorold, and on the 21st the Army of Invasion of Canada had recrossed the

frontier, and our troops again occupied their old positions.

Words can depict but faintly the scene of devastation and destruction through which we drove the destroyers—the country lately smiling from the kiss of spring, covered with thriving villages and prosperous towns, was now a desolate waste, with here and there a smoking ruin. Nothing had been spared by their destroying hands, and the inhabitants fearing their approach had fled before them like chaff before the wind. The few remaining told fearful stories, equalled only by the tale of Sherman's march to the sea, and incredible in their details of want in outrage and cruelty.

The proclamations issued on their advance guaranteeing safety to the inhabitants had been so much waste paper, and the sighs of the oppressed, and threats of the revengeful filled the land. The Welland Canal, and the shipping that had sought safety in its waters was destroyed, the railroads had only escaped a similar fate from our close pursuit. Scarcely a house on the line of their march, was standing, and the towns and villages had been pillaged and burned. Such was the penalty we had paid for Great Britain's want of firmness in checking American rapacity in years gone by. Grown insolent by repeated concessions they imagined themselves invincible and hence this war, which a due respect for the power and resources of Great Britain would have averted.

So far as we were concerned, this was the last of the War. Again defeated at Montreal, and with armies of invasion advancing on Washington from the south, the bombardment of New York, the occupation of Portsmouth and Boston, the destruction of their ironclad fleet in Chesapeake Bay, together with the clamors of the Democratic press, and New England manufacturers, the secession of the South and disaffection of the West; the American armies had quite enough to do at home.

How the occupation of Washington was achieved, and the varying success that attended that operation; how flying columns from Montreal co-operating with the Boston forces attacked and reduced Albany and gained possession of the Hudson River, and how the American people were paralysed by these repeated strokes of misfortune, is a matter of history. Suffice it to say that on the 11th November a new Treaty of Washington was signed, saving England, the Southern States of America and the Dominion of Canada on the one part; and the lately United States on the other; by which the boundaries were re-arranged giving Canada her old lines in Maine and Michigan, and guaranteeing her Independence, recognising the South as an Independent Confederation, and levying a war indemnity of \$300,000,000 for the damages incurred by the war.

Raised at once to the position of an independent and powerful neighbour, with a

natural ally in the South to prevent efforts at encroachment or aggrandisement by the North, Canada under her Viceroy has grown into the first, instead of the last, power, on the North American Continent. With the opening of the boundless Northwestern Territories, the tide of emigration was diverted from the usual channels, and overflowed her lands.

Thanks to her free and enlightened laws and boundless resources, she has kept up her reputation as a refuge for the emigrant, and no longer overshadowed by a narrow minded and grasping Republic, has attained the stature of manhood amongst nations.

The reciprocity once denied was eagerly sought for, and her railroads and inland navigation have proved the direct medium for western traffic. Prosperity has opened her lap and poured riches upon her undertakings, and the "ordeal of battle" by which she was tried some twenty six years ago, cannot now be traced on her fair and unwrinkled countenance.

With the close of the American War came the cessation of hostilities in Europe. Russia was checked in her designs on the East. France compelled to postpone her vengeance, and England, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and Holland formed an alliance which guarantees the "balance of power" being righteously and equitably preserved in the future.

The war has been a lesson to Great Britain. So far from proving an element of weakness, her colonies formed her chief strength, and the noble manner in which they assisted her in the hour of need, brought about the Federation of the British Empire, which now exists.

With a British Prince as Viceroy, and representatives in the councils of the Empire, the British nation is no longer confined to three small Islands, but extends across the face of the earth.

Before finishing my narrative I must draw a few conclusions, in a military point of view, as to the lesson that short campaign afforded. In the first place it proved conclusively the fallacy of trusting *entirely* to a scientific military opinion regarding the capabilities for defence of the Western peninsula.

Our base of operations rendered secure by the possession of Lake Ontario and the River St. Lawrence, the natural features of wood, water and swamp, together with the constant recurrence of defensible positions, afforded a people, strong in the defence of their hearths and homes, though numerically weak, the opportunities of defeating a large army of invasion. And had that army been twice as strong, a levy en masse would have confronted them man for man, and a similar result must have ensued. With her open seaboard, her exposed frontier in Ontario, liable at any time to a flank attack which would endanger their base of supplies—the necessity for guarding every point exposed to a similar danger, where they had