

in ambush and on sides of the road, and every precaution was taken to make it appear that there was a large force in reserve. When the advance guard of the American riflemen appeared, a volley from the woods emptied their saddles. Soon firing came from all directions and bugle calls and Indian yells. The bewildered enemy imagined themselves in presence of a much larger force. Colonel Boerstler finding that his men were losing heavily from the fire of the unseen foe, consented to surrender. By the capitulation five hundred and forty-two men, two field pieces, and the colors of the 49th U.S. regiment were delivered over to the Canadians.<sup>1</sup>

Three days afterwards, Mrs. Secord returned to her anxious husband in a comfortable conveyance, along the high road, for the enemy had left the country; and most thankful she was for the success of her dangerous undertaking and its great results.

In 1814 war was renewed, but before the year ended the treaty of Ghent was concluded. "War's tempestuous vultures" had to "fold their wings and sleep," and peace descended upon the land. During the three years of war between the Canadians and Americans there had been fifteen engagements; the British and Canadians had gained eleven, the Americans four of these fights.

Mrs. Secord lived to a good old age in the retirement of her happy home. She had several beautiful daughters, one of whom was called the "Belle of Canada." After her husband's death in 1841, she resided with her grandson, Mr. James Secord of Niagara, who writes, "My grandmother was of a modest disposition. She was the very last to mention the exploit, and unless asked would never say anything about it." There was one exception to this reticence. When the Prince of Wales visited Canada in 1860 the veteran Canadian soldiers at the Niagara frontier signed an address to His Royal Highness. Laura Secord claimed the privilege of signing also. This was readily granted as soon as the memory of her brave deed was recalled.

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<sup>1</sup> Lieut. Fitzgibbon belonged to an old but impoverished Irish family. His passion for arms was irresistible. At seventeen he enlisted and was at once made a sergeant. At twenty-one he was made sergeant-major. He served before Copenhagen where the 49th acted as Marines. In 1802 he was appointed to an ensigncy and came to Canada. In 1809 he succeeded to a lieutenancy. His exploits at Beaver Dam gave him his company. He thus rose by dint of meritorious service. At the close of the war he settled in Canada and filled several offices under the government. He retired on a pension and returned to England where in just appreciation of his services he was made a military knight of Windsor.—Mrs. CURZON.