

river in 1866, the region has been free from war's alarms since the days of the Patriots. The Fenian outbreak was one of the results of the plan of the revolutionary Irishmen to oppose the English Government, and to compel that government to restore Ireland's rights. The Fenian hostility to Canada was solely because of the fact that the latter was an English dependency. The special time was selected, because of the actual service that many loyal Irishmen

In 1885, the State of New York, after an agitation by prominent men for several years, purchased the land on the American side, including Goat Island and all the smaller islands adjacent to the Falls, and above and below them, for a State Reservation. In 1887, the Province of Ontario, Canada, took a similar action. The Canadian Government, many years ago, with rare foresight had reserved a strip of land, sixty-six feet wide, along the water's edge



THE STEAMER CAROLINE BURNED AND FORCED OVER THE FALLS ON DECEMBER 29, 1837.
(From an Old Engraving.)

had just then seen in the United States army during the Rebellion. Of actual hostilities on this frontier there was but one occurrence during the brief agitation, fought on the Canadian side opposite Buffalo, from which city the Fenians invaded Canada. It was known as the battle of Ridgeway, the main contest having been at that point, with a subordinate engagement at a hamlet called Waterloo, close to the water's edge. The Fenians were temporarily successful, but were ultimately entirely defeated and their invading force quickly dispersed.

above the Falls, and along the edge of the high bank below them, from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, as a military reserve. This is now under the control of the Canadian Park Commissioners, and, together with the additional lands acquired near the Falls, and the land around Brock's Monument, forms an ideal government reservation.

The honour of first suggesting the preservation of the scenery about the Falls has been claimed for many persons. Others, later on, suggested it officially; others still, advocated it more publicly and more persistently,