

And clasped her mother round the neck. "I know
The sound of battle from rejoicing; since
We heard them both on Queenston's bloody day.
O, for a messenger to bring us news
That all is well!"

Some men who passed in haste
To their alarm posts, told her: "They had heard
Old Newark was assailed. The hostile fleet
That erewhile ravaged York, but failed to hold
The capital, had sailed again, to land
An army of ten thousand on our shores!
Our men were few and overmatched; but yet
The cannon booming faster, faster, told
A tale of desperate resistance. Not
Till all lay dead on the Canadian shore,
Should Dearborn land his host," the men averred,
And forthwith hastened to their rallying place.

The boom of distant cannon—peal on peal,
Kept on with ever-shorter interval,
The tremor shook the house, still more the hearts
Of its lone inmates—that fair girl we saw,
And her fond mother—as they knelt in prayer,
And wept and pleaded for God's help to aid
Those near and dear to them, who had gone down
To fight their country's battles with their foes.
For father, brothers, one; for husband, sons,
The other prayed. Five from that happy home
Had joined the camp at Newark, days ago;
The yeomen of the land, well trained and ranked
With royal troops, a choice but very few,
Assembled there to meet the multitude,
Who rumour said were coasting up the Lake,
Ten thousand strong, to take the loyal town.
No man had flinched. It was not in their blood
To yield to any—least of all to those
Once ranked as rebels to the Crown; and still
Friends of its foes, and foes of all its friends.

And there was none to tell how went the fight;
No news that all were safe for whom they prayed
If all were spared they loved; and Isa clasped
Her hands in anguish, for full well she knew,
Where hottest raged the battle on the shore,
Would one be found who loved her, in despite
Of maiden coyness and reserve, that feared
Herself far more than him. Her love was gone
Forever to young Basil of "The King's,"*

* The 8th, or King's Regiment, famous in American warfare.