

order, to the Western battery as it was called. This battery consisted of old iron guns minus the trunnions, which had been knocked off by the French in 1758 and had been buried in the sand of the lake until dug up for the defence of York harbor; they were embedded in oak logs and mounted on clumsy carriages, and were, of course, inefficient. The 5th left Capt. McNeil and 46 rank and file dead on the field and had one lieutenant and 35 wounded, total 83 out of 170 men who marched into action. The other troops having suffered in a trifle less proportion a retreat was ordered, and the magazine being blown up the regulars commenced a long weary march to Kingston. The only survivors of this action are Lieut. Jarvis of the 5th, Lieut. George Ridout and Andrew Mercer of the York Militia.

"There was no camp equipage in the war of 1812-13-14, and the troops when they could not find cantonments had to bivouack in the open air. The militia supplied their own clothing, one blanket each was all that could be allowed them. Our Volunteers of the present day must not, therefore, complain if they suffer some discomforts when *playing sojers*. Five companies of the 5th commanded by Brevet Lieut.-Col. Ogilvie, were stationed at Fort George on the Niagara river. The morning of the 27th May, 1813, was partially foggy, and on its clearing up an American fleet was seen standing towards the shore of the lake accompanied by about 100 boats crowded with soldiers. Against this powerful armament Brigadier General Vincent had only a very small force to oppose. Between three and four thousand Americans landed with several pieces of artillery and advanced in three columns. The British light troops were forced back but they were gallantly sustained by the companies of the 5th under Colonel Ogilvie, and a most sanguinary combat was maintained. General Vincent observed in his despatch 'nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops; they appeared regardless of the consequences of the unequal contest. Being on the spot and seeing that the force under my command was opposed by ten-fold numbers, I decided on retiring to the Beaver dams. Lieut. Drummil was killed, Major Cotton, Lieuts. Noel, Mortimer, McMahon, Lloyd and Nicholson were wounded, 11 sergeants, 4 drummers and 181 rank and file killed and wounded.'

"While the American fleet was engaged in this enterprise against Fort George, Major Evans of the 5th with five companies were engaged in an attack on Sackett's Harbor. The landing was effected on the morning of the 29th May under a heavy fire from Horse Island; Major Evans and his command dashed through an expanse of water and captured a six pounder. The enemy were driven from the woods and fled to the block house and fort. In the moment of victory the force was withdrawn by order of Sir G. Prevost, and re-embarked. The command

of the expedition in his despatch stated 'The detachment of the 8th or King's, under Major Evans nobly sustained the high and established character of that distinguished corps.' Five privates were killed and sixty rank and file wounded. Lieut. Nutall was wounded and afterwards died. Major Evans, Capt. Blackmore and Tythe, Lieut. Lowery and Ensign Grey were wounded."

Our gallant correspondent throws a flood of light on the terrible odds against Canada in this contest. Disabled guns which had lain rusting for 54 years were among the batteries; the military force a few regular soldiers without camp equipage, hospital stores or sufficient food, aided by a militia in homespun whose sole equipment was one blanket each man. Yet what splendid victories were won by those men, what noble deeds of arms and what soldierly daring. The pages of history would be in vain ransacked for a parallel except the gallant French defence of the same country in the war of 1754-64, the relics of which furnished the armament of the shore batteries of Upper Canada in 1812-15. The following letter, although evidently written under feelings of irritation, so concisely enumerates the services of the gallant Canadian soldiers that we cannot forbear reproducing it:

CANADIANS IN THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the Leader.

SIR:—In the list of veterans sent to the *Spectator* by "A Native Canadian," and copied into your paper of the 1st inst., I observe several inaccuracies and some omissions. If there be any honor in the matter, it is but fair that each person should obtain all that he is entitled to and that no one should be omitted.

The Lieut. Jarvis mentioned in that list was only a volunteer in the 49th regiment. With him were associated Mr. Augustus Thompson, a brother of the late Col. Thompson of Toronto Township, Mr. Shaw, son of the late General Shaw at Toronto, and Donald A. E. McDonald, Esq., Warden of the Provincial Penitentiary. All these volunteers were afterwards appointed Ensigns in the 5th regiment and subsequently Lieutenants. They were all at the battles of Queenston, Stony Creek, Beaverdam, Chippawa, Lundy's Lane, Black Rock, storming Fort Erie, the siege of Fort Erie—all of them except Lieut. Jarvis were at the battle of Niagara, 27th May, 1813, and Lieut. Jarvis was at the battle of York, 27th April, 1813. The late Mr. Radenlurst of Toronto, served during the war and showed great spirit when very young.

The late Alex. Wilkinson, barrister, and the late Major Richardson, author of "Wacousta," were volunteers in the 41st regiment, and were in all the actions under Gen. Proctor in the west. None of these survive except Donald A. E. McDonald and Judge Jarvis of Cornwall.

It must not be forgotten that the late Sir James B. McAulay and Ex. C. J. McLean held commissions in the army and distinguished themselves in the field. The Court of Queen's Bench once consisted of the late C. J. Robinson, Mr. Justices McAulay, Jones, McLean and Hagerman, all of whom had seen actual service in the Militia. I do not think that either the Tories or the Fami-

ly campact need be ashamed to own these men—they are all but one, I trust, gone to a rich reward.

Alex. McLean, Esq., of Cornwall, like his father and brother, did good service in the Newfoundland regiment. There were other officers in the Glengarry Fencibles and incorporated militia whose names I cannot now call to mind, entitled to a place in this list. Some person interested in the honor of those distinguished regiments should assume the task of redeeming their names from oblivion. The veterans of 1812 should not remain "unhonored and unsung."

In England's darkest hour, with almost all Europe in arms against her, when the United States of America undertook to humble her they stood forward "few and faint but fearless still." It strikes me that the Minister of Militia ought to have a public record made of their names, and published with a brief statement of the services of each. This would be only a just tribute—as yet they have never received any—and it would stimulate Canada's sons, should that dark hour ever come again, to emulate the deeds of their fathers. How few of these veterans now remain—and should this grateful tribute even now be paid, alas! those few would say, too late! too late!

I am, yours,

ANOTHER CANADIAN.

Toronto, August 9, 1864.

The gallant deeds of the soldiers of 1812-15 were not rewarded; their services were passed coldly by. The English Parliament were too selfish or too careless to bestow a thought on the gallant colonists, their own House of Assembly was too much occupied with selfish political squabbles to entertain any lofty national ideas and in the present day except that in the pages of history their deeds are eulogized in renown, no public memorial marks the deeds of heroes, equal if not superior to those of antiquity for manly prowess. There is a single exception: Queenston Heights overlooking the battle field, a proud monument marks the site where the ashes of the gallant leader Brock and his aid de-camp repose. But the field at Lundy's Lane, the swamp beside the Thames, the shore at Chrysler's Farm and Forks of the Chateaugay are unmarked by any tokens of a nation's love or gratitude. This ought not to be. If patriotism is of any value in cementing social life, the emulative principle should be fostered for its promotion, and the gallant deeds of the sires should be held up as an example to the sons. The memory of the heroes of 1812-15 should not be suffered to sink into oblivion, and it may be well said in reference to their deeds "that there were giants in the land in those days."

In the heart of that wild untrodden wilderness which those heroes died to preserve as an heritage to the Empire, stately legislative halls have arisen which at once suggest the idea that they would be a fitting *Vatthalla*—a hall of heroes—for the soldiers of 1812-15. Is there not in those halls a legislator or a senator, the son of a soldier of that war, who will embody the idea and repair an act of national neglect by an act of national justice.