

to think that were Englishmen placed in the same situation, they would show even more impatience to escape from French rule. How essentially different are the feelings of the people from when I first knew them!" (1802) "The idea prevails generally among them that Napoleon must succeed, and ultimately get possession of these provinces. The bold and violent are becoming every day more audacious, and the timid, with that impression, think it more prudent to withdraw altogether from the society of the English, rather than run the chance of being accused hereafter of partiality to them. The consequence is, that little or no intercourse exists between the two races." Such is the picture drawn of society in the Province of Quebec, and of the feeling of the people three years before the war, by an eye-witness and a man well able to judge. That feeling went on increasing, and two years after had become so much more bitter that Brigadier Brock, writing to another brother, remarks, not without spite:—"Sir James Craig has triumphed completely over the French faction in the Lower Province. By their conduct they have fully exemplified the character of their ancestors. The moment they found they could not intimidate by threats, they became as obsequious as they had been violent." Such was the feeling in Lower Canada. The French portion of the population looked eagerly forward, hoping earnestly and praying devoutly for the overthrow of England, in order once more to come under French rule. The English portion knowing perfectly what their feelings and wishes were, detested them cordially in consequence, looking upon them as monsters of ingratitude and traitors deserving a halter.

In the States, meanwhile, the French party, known as the democratic or war party, and distinguished by its hatred for England and everything English were in power. Madison was President,

and Munroe Secretary of State. A convention held to choose candidates for the approaching presidential election, had assembled on the 18th of May, and Madison, having promised to recommend war, had been in consequence, unanimsously put in nomination and re-elected. It seems strange to find the United States siding with Napoleon, the greatest despot in Europe, and the man who had strangled the French Republic, against England, their mother-country, and the champion of freedom. In the words of Allison: "But on war they were determined, and to war they went. And thus had America, the greatest republic in existence, which had ever proclaimed its attachment to the cause of freedom in all nations, the disgrace of going to war with Great Britain, then the last refuge of liberty in the civilized world, when their only ground of complaint against it had been removed; and of allying their arms with those of France, at that very moment commencing its unjust crusade against Russia, and straining every nerve to crush in the Old World the last vestige of Continental independence."

The American Government were, besides their hatred for England, moved by two other strong motives to declare war when they did; the one was a hope to secure the West Indian fleet of one hundred sail, the other to annex Canada. In both they were doomed to disappointment. The West India fleet, though inadequately guarded and unaware of the declaration of war, managed to escape, thanks to the judgment and promptitude of Captain Byron, of the "Belvidera." He drew down upon himself the attack of the whole American squadron, fought them with the utmost skill and courage, led them considerably out of their way, and finally after a long chase, in which the American ship "President" was severely handled, made good his escape. The merchant fleet in the meanwhile