

who might be on board, and also to claim from American men-of-war any deserters from British cruisers. This led to several sanguinary hand to hand engagements, notably those between H.M.S. Leopard, 2-decker, and the American frigate Chesapeake, and another between the U.S. frigate President, 44 guns, and the British sloop-of-war Little Belt, 18 guns. The account given of these engagements is very interesting, but we must pass on to matter more properly belonging to the subject of these remarks:—The inevitable result of this state of things was that war was declared, as I have said, on the 18th June, 1812.

MONTREAL DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

It caused much excitement and some anxiety. Montreal then contained about 12,000 inhabitants, nearly two-thirds French Canadians, the next Scotch and then English, but very few Irish. The Irish immigration did not take place to any extent till a long time after, when they came by thousands for many years. The fortifications had in a great measure fallen into ruins, been levelled or removed, to enable the town to expand, but the stone walls and gates remained in some parts, and the citadel was still intact where Dalhousie square now is. It was a hill of considerable height, with guns mounted and the artillery barracks on the top. It commanded the river and the town. After the war it was razed and now forms a large portion of the Champ de Mars. The loyalty of the people, without distinction of race or creed, could not be surpassed, much to the disappointment of the Yankees. An artillery corps, a troop of cavalry and four militia battalions were immediately organized, armed and equipped for service. All males from eighteen to sixty were accepted, or rather taken as eligible, but many younger and older men were disappointed at not being taken. All were constantly on the alert and in high spirits. The first demonstration that occurred was on the arrival of General Hull and his force; he had crossed the frontier at Detroit, issued proclamations inviting the Canadians to join his standard. After several reverses he was driven back and finally captured by the gallant and heroic Brock, who had been entrusted with the defence of the Upper Province, where all the fighting took place the first year of the war. On Sunday evening, the beginning of September, the

American prisoners, accompanied by their general in a carriage, with a British officer of rank, followed by another with British and American staff officers, were escorted into town by detachments from the 8th King's Regiment and the Montreal Militia, headed by the band of the King's. The gratification of the spectators was intense; it being late, the streets through which the line of march passed were illuminated. The General was received at the Government house by the governor, His Excellency Sir George Prevost, and the officers, twenty-five in number, were quartered at Holmes' hotel. The prisoners left for Quebec under a militia guard on the 8th September. Although Montreal was not exposed to any direct attack for some time, still there were constant alarms of flying columns coming in by the way of Lake Champlain, or down the St. Lawrence from Ogdensburgh to "gobble" up Montreal. On the 19th November, at midnight,

THE DRUMS BEAT TO ARMS

and the whole force were ordered to meet the enemy in the direction of Lachine, but finding none, after some days the brigade returned. It was not until the autumn of 1813 that any fighting of consequence took place in Lower Canada. General Wilkinson had assumed command of the Northern army of the United States, and a plan was formed to unite his forces for a grand attack upon Montreal and Quebec by two strong divisions, one commanded by General Hampton, by the way of Lake Champlain, and the other by himself, descending the St. Lawrence from Sackett's harbor, with the intention of forming a junction at some place near Montreal. After much manoeuvring, Hampton was signally defeated by the

ABLE AND GALLANT DE SALABERRY,

with his regiment, the Voltigeurs, and some militia at Chateauguay, and Wilkinson, on his way down the St. Lawrence, was brought to bay and compelled to land at Chrysler's farm by the British force, which followed him from Kingston, and was also defeated, after which he made the best of his way back to the States. At the battle of Chrysler's farm the Glengarry Light Infantry distinguished itself, rivaling in gallantry His Majesty's regular troops. After Hampton's defeat at Chateauguay, and refusing to comply with Wilkinson's orders, he was dismissed the service in disgrace.

Wilkinson when he Montreal pressed March, 1 stone mile Majesty's force being killed to 128 wounded killed and

In the surrender victory of condition great relief France had events of States to and a d army left On arrival once for Sir George an expected act as occurred troops of satisfaction quasi d home, From the December menaced strong force When pe force was etc., returned and from militia f 1837. T and a co out occ without muster very pe ular regi sible, B from some Thus do stormy were the in clear many a respect v