

THE OLD ROSE-TREE.

My fancy sees in blossom now
As 'twas in days of yore,
That tree within the little green,
Before the old church-door;
'Twas there I told my weeping love
That "I must go away;"
And always as on it I look,
I think upon that day.

Ah me! how dearly do I prize
Each blossom it doth bear!
And where her finger plucked a rose
A kiss I printed there:
And gazing, cannot fail to think
Of her, now cold and dead;
But though her form's forever gone,
Her memory no'er has fled.

For recollection keeps alive
Each well-remembered grace,
The kindness of her loving heart,
The beauty of her face;
And safely kept in sorrow's cell,
Her image lies enshrined—
The brightest of the memories
That crowd my anxious mind.

The dear old tree shall live again
Where I have placed a bough,
Above that spot where rests in peace
That form so lifeless now.
A lesson it will serve to teach
That cynics must not scorn,
We dare not hope on earth to gain
"A rose without its thorn."

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

XIV.

On the 26th July the American squadron reinforced by the new ship General Pike, again appeared on the lake; that force now consisted of fourteen vessels, mounting 114 guns and manned with 1193 seamen. The British squadron, one-third inferior, was then lying in Kingston harbour, watched by two American schooners. The first object the American commodore contemplated was the destruction of the depot of stores and provisions at Burlington Heights; for this purpose he took on board 300 regulars at Niagara and on the 30th landed the troops but finding the detachment of 150 rank and file well posted and on the alert they were re-embarked, having first made some of the unarmed inhabitants prisoners. From those he learned that the whole of the regulars stationed at York had been withdrawn the previous evening to reinforce the post at Burlington, and knowing the Militia were bound by parole, he steered for that port and on the afternoon of the 31st landed the whole without opposition, broke open the gaol, liberated the prisoners and plundered the houses of the inhabitants of provisions and valuables, re-embarking about 11 o'clock at night. On the 1st August they again landed and sent three armed boats up the river Don in search of stores and having done all possible mischief the squadron sailed away; the following is the official account of this transaction:

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, }
Upper Canada, Aug. 8th, 1813. }

MY LORD:—I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship that the enemy's fleet of twelve sail made its appearance off York on the 31st ult.; the three square-rigged vessels, the Pike, Madison, and Oneida came to anchor in the offing but the schooners passed up the harbour and landed several boats full of troops at the former garrison and proceeded from thence to the town of which they took possession; they opened the gaol, liberated the prisoners and took

away three soldiers confined for felony, they then went to the hospitals and paroled the few men that could not be removed. They next entered the storehouses of some of the inhabitants, seized their contents, chiefly flour and the same being private property, between 11 and 12 o'clock that night they returned on board their vessels. The next morning, Sunday the 1st instant, the enemy again landed and sent three armed boats up the river Don in search of public stores, of which being disappointed, by sun-set both soldiers and sailors had evacuated the town. The small barrack wood yard and storehouse on Gibraltar point having been first set on fire by them and at daylight the following morning the enemy's fleet sailed.

The plunder obtained by the enemy upon this predatory expedition has indeed been trifling and the loss has altogether fallen upon individuals, the public stores of every description having been removed, and the only prisoners taken by them there being confined to felons and invalids in the hospital.

The troops which were landed were acting as marines and appeared to be about 250 men. They were under the command of Commodore Chauncey and Lieut.-Col. Scott, an unexchanged prisoner of war on his parole, both of whom landed with the troops. The town upon the arrival of the enemy was totally defenceless, the militia were still on their parole and the principal gentlemen had retired from an apprehension of being treated with the same severity used towards several of the inhabitants near Fort George who had been made prisoners and sent to the United States. Lt.-Colonel Battersby of the Glengarry fencibles, with the detachment of light troops under his command who had been stationed at York, was upon the appearance of the enemy's fleet off that place, on the 29th ult., ordered with his detachment and light artillery to proceed for the protection of the depots formed at Burlington Heights where he had joined Maule's detachment of the 104th regiment and concentrated his force on the following evening.

The enemy had during the course of that day landed from the fleet 500 men near Brandt's house with an intention of storming the heights, but finding Major Maule well prepared to receive them and being informed of Lt.-Col. Battersby's march they re-embarked and stood away for York.

My last accounts from Major General de Rottenburg are to the 3rd inst., when the enemy's fleet had anchored off Niagara. I have received no tidings of our squadron under Sir James Yeo, since its sailing from here on 31st ult.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
GEORGE PREVOST.

Earl Bathurst, &c.

The treachery or pusillanimity, or both, of the Whig statesmen who ruled England in 1783 had given to the people of the United States a boundary line on the Eastern frontier out of all proportion to their rights or even to the claims of justice, a boundary line which brought them nearly to the foot of the water shed between the Hudson and St. Lawrence and placed the gate of Canada, the Valley of Lake Champlain in their hands. In the contest of 1812-15 the defenders of Canada found to their cost that the country had been defrauded of its proper means of protection at a vital point, and taught them this lesson which later experience has verified, that a second rectifi-

cation of boundaries must occur before the true limits of territory will be reached, and this second adjustment will lead the Canadian frontier to the head of Lake George, that with the Adirondack ranges and the 44th parallel being the natural boundaries to the south-east. It was contemplated by the Americans to erect batteries at Rouse's point, at the entrance of the Richelieu river, and if they had carried their intentions into effect it would have been a serious matter indeed for Montreal which was only 45 miles distant with hardly a defensible post between.

Isle aux Noix, a small island on the Richelieu, was the only military post in the neighborhood of Lake Champlain, its area is about 85 acres and it contained three well constructed forts with several block houses; it was garrisoned in 1813 by detachments of the 13th and 100th regiments, with a small party of Royal artillery under the temporary command of Major Taylor of the 100th

Owing to the rapids lower down, the Richelieu was not navigable throughout, and the only British armed vessels at this post were three small gunboats built at Quebec and transported over land from the basin at Chambly to St. Johns. The Americans immediately after the commencement of the war armed and equipped some vessels on Lake Champlain, and on the first of June two schooners under the command of Lieut. Sidney Smith, late of the Chesapeake, entered the Richelieu and appeared in that narrow channel to the gaze of the astonished garrison. Whether the gallant Lieutenant intended to run down and sink the Isle-aux-Noix, batteries, guns and garrison; whether he was on a *big drunk* or intended to capture the island and then run the rapids of the Richelieu to the St. Lawrence, take Quebec, and sail home by the Gulf, Capes Cod and Breton, displaying on the way the Governor General with the whole British army as the captives of his schooners, his tory doth not say, but the following official despatch tells the tale of what befel the doughty fresh water cruiser.

ISLE-AUX-NOIX, }
June 3rd, 1813. }

SIR:—In the absence of Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, I have the honor to acquaint you that one of the enemy's armed vessels was discovered from the garrison at half past four o'clock this morning when I judged it expedient to order the three gunboats under weigh and before they reached the point above the garrison another vessel appeared in sight when the gunboats commenced firing. Observing the vessels to be near enough to the shore for musketry I ordered the crews of two batteaux and row boats (which I took with me from the garrison to act according to circumstances) to land on each side of the river and take a position to rake the vessels. The firing was briskly kept up on both sides, the enemy with small arms and grape shot occasionally. Near the close of the action an express came off to me in a canoe with intelligence that more armed vessels were approaching and about 3,000 men from the enemy's lines by land. On this information I returned to put the