



# The Volunteer Review

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### THE LIST OF THE KILLED.

#### A TOUCHING INCIDENT OF THE WAR.

The sun was sinking in the West,  
Where it generally sinks, I believe,  
As a soldier limped to a cottage door,  
With but one arm in his sleeve.

The honest farmer hastened forth,  
And tearfully led him in:  
So brushed the dust from his faded clothes,  
And hung his hat on a pin.

"I'm hungry," the soldier said, "and tired—  
I'm weary and fain would rest—  
God help me! I had a fearful time,  
With Sherman out in the West!"

The old man started—the good wife sighed—  
The eyes of both were wet;  
But they hastened to spread an humble meal,  
For the victor—and he ate.

"We had a son," said the gray old man,  
"Perhaps that you may have heard  
His name—for he was with Sherman, too,  
John Smith—of the thirty-third!"

"A brave and gallant lad was he  
As ever did break bread—  
But we saw him, me! His eyelids dead—  
His name in the list of the dead."

"Old man!" the soldier said as he wiped  
The sweat from his weary brow—  
"I knew that boy of yours right well—  
Methinks that I see him now!"

"'Twas in that fierce, tremendous fight,  
On the rebel Gillott's farm—  
That the shot and shell flew furious,  
And I lost my good right arm."

"My senses swim, but I knew at last  
That victory was won;  
'Twas then and there on that gory field  
That I saw John Smith, your son."

"Ah!" the old man gasped—"I suppose he fell  
In that shower of shell and shot."  
"Oh, no," the soldier man replied—  
"You're mistaken—he did not."

"They bore me from the battle field  
On a stretcher, on my back,  
And far in the rear I saw your son  
A playing of High, Low, Jack."

"He had only one to go, he said,  
In a hoarse, triumphant shout,  
As he thumbed the Jack, and raked the pile,  
For that just carried him out."

"So dry your tears, my good old man,  
For your boy will soon be here;  
I left him down at the village inn,  
A treating 'em all to beer!"

### NAVAL OPERATIONS

OF THE  
WAR OF 1812-14.

#### CHAPTER XVI.

The desultory operations on the American side terminating in the disastrous demonstration before Baltimore—the final withdrawal of the fleet and army was to be superseded by an "ulterior object" which was

the attempted capture of the city of New Orleans—an object which should have been the principal part of the offensive operations against the United States, and one which would have delivered Canada from all fear of invasion. It was and is the true objective point against which the principal part of an invading force should be hurled, and its capture would at once paralyse all resistance on the part of the United States. Such being the case, the wonder is that an attempt on it should have been deferred till the third year of this contest, and that the efforts of a Naval and Military force sufficient for its capture should be allowed to expend their strength on such desultory and useless efforts as already narrated, while ample time was allowed the Americans to fortify their most vulnerable point and collect a sufficient force for its defence. To add to the complicated blunders perpetrated during this war, one unsuccessful attack on the forts at the mouths of the Mississippi while it taught the British commanders nothing enabled the Americans to ascertain their weakness and remedy any defects in their lines of defence.

New Orleans, the capital of the State of Louisiana, stands on the left bank of the Mississippi 105 miles above its mouth, in 1814 it contained 23,242 souls and was, as it has been to a late period, the centre of the *Colton Trade*. The line of Maritime invasion extends from Lake Pontchartrain on the East to the River Têche on the West intersected by several bays, inlets and rivers which furnish avenues of approach to the city. It has however the disadvantage of a flat and low lying coast unfavorable for the debarkation of troops owing to the loose state of the mud and the distance from firm land where laden boats will take bottom—the bays and inlets are all obstructed by shoals; no landing can be effected without a long pull in boats, except up the Mississippi, at the mouth of which is a bar with 13 or 14 feet water thereon.

On the 12th September, 1814, the British 20-gun ship *Hermes* and 20-gun ship *Carron*, with two 18 gun brig-sloops *Sophia* and *Childers*, anchored about six miles to the Eastward of Mobile point for the purpose of making an attack on Fort Bowyer, situated on

that point, mounting altogether 28 guns—owing to the intricacy of the navigation they did not arrive in position before the Fort till the afternoon of the 15th. The *Hermes* having gained a station within musket shot of the *Sophia*, *Carron* and *Childers* anchoring in a line astern of her. A detachment of 60 marines and 120 Indians with a 5½ inch howitzer had previously disembarked on the Peninsula, 60 of the Indians were detached to secure the pass of Bonsecours 27 miles to the Eastward of the Fort—the distance at which the *Carron* and *Childers* had anchored confined the effective cannonade to the *Hermes* and *Sophia*, nor was the fire of the latter of much use as, owing to the rottenness of her timbers and defective construction, her carronades drew the bolts or turned over at every fire. The *Hermes* during the action had her cable cut, was carried away by the current presenting her head to the Fort, remaining in this position 15 or 20 minutes continually raked by its fire which swept the men from her decks she shortly afterwards grounded in front of the Fort—every means were used ineffectually to get her afloat but without effect—the surviving crew were removed to the *Sophia* and then set the ship on fire; the loss sustained in men was 32 killed and 40 wounded in this ill-conceived and worse executed attack.

The expedition destined to attempt the capture of New Orleans sailed from Negril Bay (Jamaica) on the 26th November, having on board about 5000 soldiers. On the 5th of December it anchored off the Chandeleur islands. The approach to New Orleans by the Mississippi, a matter of great difficulty to a hostile fleet of sailing vessels at the period of invasion, beside the bar at the mouth it was defended by a fort built on piles surrounded by impervious swamps and altogether inaccessible, if even that obstacle was passed and the wind favorable to stem a current of four miles an hour the vessels would be brought up at the Detour des Anglais, 20 miles below the city, the river bending round in shape like a horse-shoe, the sailing vessels would be compelled to anchor under the fire of two forts till a change of wind took place; parallel to the course of the river are two