

ing at New York. They were dispatched to King's ships under the care of a man-of-war.

In the History of Canada, by the learned Dr. Cauniff, to whom we are indebted for much valuable information, we find the following interesting document, written by a grandson of Captain Grass, several of whose descendants still occupy lands in these counties, fulfilling the ancient declaration, "His seed shall be mighty upon the earth." While grass shall grow his name shall live.

Mr. Robert Grass, of Sidney, says that the party of refugees set sail from New York, in a fleet of seven vessels, and after a long voyage of nine weeks, during which they encountered a severe gale, lasting eight days and being nearly wrecked, they reached Sorel. This was probably in the early part of 1783. The men of the party ascended the St. Lawrence in bateaux, and landed at the mouth of Little Cataraqui Creek, thence proceeding westward, prospecting as far as Collinsby. Crossing to the west side of this little bay, Captain Grass attempted to drive a stake in the ground with the intention of fixing a tent, or commencing a survey, whereupon he found it rocky. Remarking that he had come too far to settle upon a rock, he returned to the east of the cove, and took possession of the first township of the Bay of Quinte. There seems some reason to believe that when Captain Grass arrived in Canada, and explained to the Government his mission, that Surveyor-General Holland directed Deputy-Surveyor Collins to proceed with Captain Grass to Cataraqui, so that he might be guided by him. If such was the case, the base-line along the front of the first township must have been run before Captain Grass crossed to the west of Collinsby, and rejected the land lying to the west thereof. Captain Grass, as well as the surveying party, returned to Sorel for the winter, and in the spring they returned, accompanied by all of the families, under Captain Grass. It was the summer of 1784 that the first township was occupied. There was some dissatisfaction at the preference accorded to Captain Grass, by those who had been in Canada. His superior claim was, however, acknowledged. At the same time there appears to have been some compromise, from the fact, that while Captain Grass himself obtained the first lot adjoining to the reserve for the town, the second one, which was by number lot 24, was granted to the Rev. Mr. Stuart, and the next to Mr. Herkimer, neither of whom had any connection with Captain Grass's company.

The following extract of a letter written by Captain Grass, at a subsequent period, reveals to us the appearance the place presented to him, at the time of his settling. The old gentleman had some grievance to make known to the public respecting a road, and he commences his communication thus:

"Seven and twenty years, Mr. Printer, have rolled away since my eyes for the second time beheld the shores of Cataraqui. In that space of time, how many changes have taken place in the little circle in which fate had destined me to move! How many of the seats of my old associates are now vacant! How few of these, alas! to mourn with me the loss of the companions of our sufferings, or to rejoice with me at the prosperous condition of this, our land of refuge! Yet, will I not repine; they are gone, I trust, to a better land, where He who causeth the wilderness to smile and blossom as the rose, hath assigned to them a distinguished place, as a reward for their humble imitation of his labors. Yes! seven and twenty years ago scarce the vestige of a human habitation could be found in the whole extent of the Bay of Quinte. Not a settler had dared to penetrate the vast forest that skirted its shores. Even on the spot now covered with stately edifices, were to be seen only the bark-thatched wigwam of the savage, or the newly-erected tent of the hardy loyalists. Then when the ear heard me, it blessed me for being strong in my attachment to my sovereign, and high in the confidence of my fellow-subjects. I led the loyal band, I pointed out to them the site of their future metropolis, and gained for persecuted principles a sanctuary for myself, and followers a home.

"KINGSTON, 7th December, 1811."

(Signed)

"G.

Although the "King's Township" was chiefly settled by the band of loyalists who came by the way of St. Lawrence from New York, there were several others who received grants of land here, a few of whom no doubt reached Kingston as early as a date as 1783, and, as we have seen, they may have visited the place previous to that date.

The majority of these settlers were not possessed of considerable means, in fact many were in dependent circumstances, and for the first two years were assisted by Government with provisions, farming utensils, and clothing. These loyal and courageous people were thus cast comparatively destitute in the wilderness, yet they failed to despair. The greater part had been bred to agricultural pursuits, and they now very speedily adapted themselves to circumstances, and resumed their former occupations. The ponderous axe of the backwoodsman was swung as willingly and vigorously in the forests of Canada as it had been in those of New England and New York. Clearings were soon made, log-houses erected, in a very few years the wilderness "blossomed as the rose," and waving fields of golden grain bent to the summer winds in various parts of this fertile land.

It now became advisable to encourage immigration to the province, and to put forth the best means to accomplish this end as early as possible. Our rulers had wisdom enough to see that the allotment of free grants of land was the first step to be taken; hence, lots of 200 acres each were granted to settlers on condition of actual occupation, and the payment of expenses of survey and fees of office, amounting to the total sum of thirty-eight dollars. This immediately led to an emigration from Great Britain; and when the passions excited by the recent war had somewhat subsided, and loyalists went back to their old homes among the New England hills, or the more fertile districts of the South, to visit relations and friends they had left behind, many of the latter, from the favorable accounts received, were induced to settle in this country under their own old flag.

Thus, for many years, Canada, including the counties immediately under consideration, flourished like the "green bay tree." True it is, the long French war militated in some measure against the prosperity of this country, and checked emigration from the mother country; she was happily exempt from its evils otherwise, and in the enjoyment of liberty was left to develop her resources as she best might. The calm and tranquillity which marked her onward progress, however, were soon to be ruffled. The blessings of peace and plenty, the happy results of ceaseless toil, were to be interrupted by an invading demon.

It was perfectly natural that the American people, after the long and bloody struggle which won their independence, should cherish a feeling of bitter animosity towards the British nation, while they evinced a corresponding proportion of gratitude with respect to their allies, the French. They totally lost sight of the fact that the British Parliament was not by any means the British people, the great majority of whom sympathized with the struggle of their relatives in America for constitutional liberty, and bitterly deplored the miseries it produced. This feeling intermingled itself with the popular poetry of the country; and many a mournful ballad set to the pathetic strains of Celtic melody commemorated the American Revolutionary War among the highlands of Scotia and the verdant valleys of Erin. But the leaders of the Revolution were not in many cases actuated by the hostile feeling which had taken such a firm hold of the undisciplined masses. Their aim was to overturn a pernicious system, to achieve their own independence, not to crush a people whose interests, whose laws, religion, and language were identical with their own. They felt that America was merely an elder daughter of the old British family; and that although she had commenced

housekeeping for herself, and had considerable difficulty in escaping from parental tutelage, a vast amount of mutual benefit must still result from friendly intercourse. Hence the student of American history will readily understand while the whole efforts of the great Washington and his friends, up to the period of his retirement from public life, in 1796, were directed towards repressing the anti-British spirit which pervaded the Democracy of their country, and to laying the foundation of a lasting peace with Great Britain, yet so strong were the sympathies of the American people with France and revolution, that in 1793 it appeared as if the current of popular opinion would sweep even Washington from its path, and that a war with Britain must speedily take place. Washington was accused in that period of intemperate national folly, of being "like the traitor Arnold," a spy sold to the English. But, still unmoved, he firmly pursued the course he was satisfied would most conduce to the benefit of his country. The horrors of the French Revolution soon cooled the ardor of the American Democratic admiration; law-abiding citizens could have no sympathy with red republicans. Washington's pacific policy triumphed, and he had at length the gratification to see a commercial treaty established with Great Britain. But, although the partiality of the Democrats for France had been successfully thwarted by the firm conservative conduct of the President, and lessened by the horrors of the guillotine, it had not by any means been wholly removed. As the war between Great Britain and France progressed, during the Presidency of Mr. Adams it gradually acquired new strength, despite the haughty tone of the French Directory. Nor was the feeling very sensibly diminished by the hostilities which broke out between the United States and France in 1798, and which terminated in a treaty of peace with Bonaparte in 1800. The election of Jefferson to the Presidency, in 1801, completely established the ascendancy of the Democratic party in the Union, and no longer checked by the counteracting influence of government, the jealousy and dislike of everything British began to show itself more unmistakably than ever. The republican sympathy of America was about to exhibit the anomalous spectacle of allying itself to the despotic sway of Napoleon, and thus spurning the constitutional liberty of Britain.

While the fleets of Great Britain swept the seas, and completely annihilated the naval power of France and Spain, the astonishing successes of Bonaparte gave him an equal preponderance on land. Victory after victory completely crushed the power of Austria. The Prussians were irretrievably ruined at the battle of Jena, and the continent of Europe was completely at his mercy. England alone now stood in his way, and Bonaparte determined to execute the long-cherished projects he had formed against her commerce, and thus strike at her power in the most vital part. By the celebrated Berlin and Milan Decrees, all the continental ports were closed against English manufactures, the whole British Islands declared in a state of blockade, and the seizure authorized of all vessels bound from British harbors, as well, also, as that of British goods, wherever such could be found. England retaliated by the less famous "Orders in Council," which declared all the ports of France and her allies, from which the British flag was excluded, in a state of rigorous blockade, and that all trade in articles, the produce and manufacture of the said countries or colonies, should be deemed unlawful, and all such articles declared good prize. These "Orders in Council" adopted Bonaparte's own measures against himself, and with him the responsibility solely rested. The state of things arising out of these measures pressed heavily upon neutrals, especially upon the Americans, whose adventurous spirit had, during this long war, enabled them to engross a great part of the carrying trade of the globe. It might naturally be supposed, that the anger of their Government would be directed against Bonaparte as the first aggressor. But this cause did not suit Mr. Jefferson, who now saw a favorable opportunity of stirring up the national hostility against England, and thus gratifying the Democratic party, of which he was the exponent. He refused to ratify a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, concluded by the American Minister, at London, with the British Government; and, on the 27th October, communicated an angry message to Congress, inveighing bitterly against the British "Orders in Council," but not breathing a single syllable of complaint against the Berlin decree, to which they were merely a reply. The Democratic majority responded to this message, by decreeing an embargo or prohibition to American vessels to leave their ports, which caused much distress and many murmurs, especially in the New England States, where shipping interests were as yet the most important in the Union.

The state of things which now existed between England and the United States gave little hopes of an amicable arrangement of differences. The distress, however, caused by the embargo, strengthened the hands of the Federalists, or peace party, who in New England especially, acquired a decided preponderance. Massachusetts boldly protested against the edict establishing it, demanded its repeal, and it now appeared as if there was a prospect of the satisfactory adjustment of the points at issue. This prospect was still further advanced by the election of Mr. Madison to the Presidency, by the repeal of the Embargo Law in March, 1809, and the substitution of an act, prohibiting all intercourse with France and England, but which provided, at the same time, that if either of the belligerents should repeal their hostile edicts, this act should cease to be in force, with respect to that nation.

This was deemed a favorable time by the English nation for negotiation; it despatched Mr. Erskine to the United States for that purpose. Unfortunately, he exceeded his instructions. Considering the suspension of the Non-intercourse Act a fair equivalent for that of the Orders in Council, he stipulated that the latter should cease to be in force at a certain period. The English Ministry refused to ratify this arrangement; so a storm of indignation was raised in the United States, the hands of the war party strengthened, and the Non-intercourse Act renewed.

It can be easily imagined, during this period, what an immense injury the commerce of both countries sustained. The Orders in Council were not withdrawn, although Bonaparte offered to suspend the Berlin and Milan Decrees if they were, and the matter now appeared to be reduced to a point of etiquette as to what nation should first give in. During the following year matters became more gloomy and portentous of war between England and the United States. The prospect became still darker in the early part of 1811. Mr. Pinckney, the American Envoy at the British Court, took formal leave of the Prince Regent on the 1st of March, and a rupture now appeared inevitable. So entirely were the American people of this opinion, that the intercourse with France was openly renewed. French vessels, crowded into their harbors, were, in numerous cases, fitted out as privateers, and did considerable mischief to British commerce. The crisis was hastened by an accidentally hostile collision, on the 16th of May, between an English sloop of war, the "Little Belt," of 18 guns, and the American frigate, "President," of 44, in which the former had thirty-two men killed and wounded. In the following January, Congress, by a vote of one hundred and nine to twenty-two, decided to increase the regular troops to twenty-five thousand men, and raise an immediate loan of \$10,000,000.

The Americans, by hastening hostilities, hoped to secure the capture of the homeward-bound West India fleet before their designs would be discovered. With this view, Congress laid a general embargo on all vessels in the harbors of the United States. They thus hoped to conceal the intelligence of their warlike preparations from spreading, while, at the same time, their idle commercial marine would enable them to man their fleet more easily. In order to work the indignation of members of Congress more effectually up to the necessary point, the President laid certain documents before them, which he had purchased from a Captain Henry for \$50,000, out of the Secret-service fund. This person had resided in Canada, during the greater part of Sir James H. Craig's administration,

and was sent by the latter to Boston in 1809, without the knowledge of the Home Government, to gain information of the condition of political parties in the United States. The intelligence he supplied was of very little value, and could have been acquired just as well from the journals of the day. He was recalled after a three months' absence, during which he wrote fourteen letters to General Craig's secretary. Not thinking himself sufficiently remunerated for his services, he went to England in 1811, and applied to the Foreign Office for additional reward, stating that he would be satisfied with the position of Judge Advocate of Lower Canada, or a perpetual consulate in the United States. He was referred back to the Canadian Government; but having already got all he could expect in that quarter, he proceeded to the United States, and offered to sell his papers to Madison. The latter, expecting important disclosures would be made, which would strengthen his party, and blacken the British Ministry, closed with the proposal, and paid him the enormous sum already stated. Henry, however, completely outwitted him. Still, although the President obtained no information of importance, he turned what he did get to the best advantage he could; but the excitement the affair produced speedily subsided, and the peace party suffered no injury.

Congress passed an act declaring war against Great Britain on the 19th June, 1812, and directing that hostilities be at once commenced. About the same time Orders in Council were repealed—an occurrence which was known in the United States in a few weeks. Although the ostensible cause of the war was thus removed, Congress did not recede from the hostile position which it had assumed. Wide as were their limits, the Democracy of America coveted additional territory, and would have gratified their hatred of Great Britain by driving her from the valley of the St. Lawrence, and thus depriving her of the source whence she now derives her chief supply of timber, as well as a most important addition to her breadstuffs. But a most influential party in the United States vigorously opposed this unholy lust for conquest. Delegates from several counties of New York protested at Albany against the war, on the ground that the same injury had been sustained from France; that hostilities with the latter would equally have satisfied national dignity, without anything like an equal risk of injury; that England had revoked her Orders in Council; and that it was repugnant to a free people to ally themselves with the Emperor Napoleon, "every action of whose life demonstrated a thirst for universal empire and the extinction of human freedom."

Randolph, of Virginia, opposed in Congress the impolicy of the war in eloquent and forcible language. "It seems," he said, "this is to be a holiday campaign; Canada is to conquer herself; she is to be subdued by the principles of fraternity. The people of that country are first to be seduced from their allegiance, and converted into traitors as a preparation to the making them good American citizens." He detested this subordination of treason. "If we must have them let them fall by the valor of our arms, by fair legitimate conquest, not as the victims of treacherous seduction. By this war," said he, "you abandon all claims for the unparalleled outrages, insults, and injuries of the French Government. By our own unwise measures we have so increased the trade and wealth of Montreal and Quebec, that at last we begin to cast a wistful eye on Canada."

Mr. Sheffey, another sensible member of Congress, said, in emphatic language: "You will act absurdly if you expect the people of Canada to join you. Upper Canada is chiefly inhabited by emigrants from the United States. They will not come back to you; they will not, without reason, desert the government to which they have gone for protection. No, sir; you must conquer it by force, not by sowing the seeds of sedition and treason among the people."

These were the sentiments of the more honorable, the more moderate, and the more sensible part of the American people. The Democratic faction, in its thirst for conquest, would ally itself with the despotic Napoleon against Britain, then the last stronghold of liberty in England, in Europe, and avail itself of the most disreputable methods to acquire Canada. Such, also, were the sentiments of most of the gallant men who had struggled for freedom with Washington, of even the very States which had been the cradle of American liberty, and whose revolutionary sacrifices had been the greatest. The men of New England had striven too ardently for what they considered freedom to ally themselves to despotism, or to visit the evils of invasion upon the newly-settled and unoffending people of Canada. At Boston, on the day war was declared, all the ships in the harbor displayed flags at half-mast high in token of mourning; and a meeting of the inhabitants passed resolutions stigmatizing the course of the majority in Congress as unnecessary, ruinous in its consequence, and leading to a connection with imperial France, destructive to American liberty and independence. While such were the calm sentiments of the free and native-born men of New England (showing that they were wiser than their fathers of 1776), the foreign population of Baltimore—the refugees of the Irish rebellion, dreaming German socialists, and French pupils of the Reign of Terror—violated the freedom of speech and the rights of person and property. The editor of the *Federal Republican* had rendered himself obnoxious to the war party, and a mob assembled to attack his house. His friends collected to assist in its defence, and several times repulsed the assailants. At length a body of military appeared, to whom the editor and his friends surrendered, upon assurance of safety, and were conducted to prison as a matter of protection. Next day, the mob attacked the jail and burst in the doors. Some of the prisoners escaped, but many were severely wounded; and General Langan, a man of seventy, once the friend of Washington, was cruelly murdered in cold blood, while General Lee, a distinguished officer of the Revolution, and also an old gray-headed veteran, had his skull fractured.

The Democracy of the United States in rushing into war, no doubt calculated upon an easy conquest of Canada. The regular troops in both provinces barely amounted to 4,000 men, to which, if we add 1,300 fencibles and 500 artillery, the force for the protection of a vast frontier of some 1,000 miles in extent was only 5,800 men. The population of Upper Canada was less than 80,000, while that of Lower Canada did not exceed 220,000. On the other hand, the population of the United States had prodigiously increased since the Revolution, and was now 8,000,000, while their warlike resources were enormous, and gave them immense advantage in carrying on a war against a comparatively poor and thinly-populated country like Canada. In point of numbers the odds were thus as twenty to one against the latter. The United States had also the advantage in the commencement of the war, of being the assailing party, and could thus penetrate at leisure any part of our long frontier they pleased, while we had to protect the whole. But aside from all these favorable circumstances, the Democratic party relied upon the people of Canada themselves to aid in wresting this country from Great Britain. The trifling political troubles in Upper and also in Lower Canada led them to suppose that the inhabitants were weary of British rule, and would readily ally themselves on the first opportunity to the United States. They were fully as much mistaken on this point as they were in supposing they could conquer these provinces by force of arms. If the people were dissatisfied with the too great power of the executive, a system of favoritism, and the arbitrary conduct of judges and other public officials, they were in no disposition to cure ills of this kind by the greater evil of unbridled republicanism. The majority of the people remained sincerely attached to constitutional monarchy, and a very general feeling of monarchy pervaded both provinces. This feeling was unquestionably the rule; a desire for alliance with the United States was the exception. But comparatively few Canadians joined the American standard during the war, and throughout it none were more gallant in rolling back the tide of unprincipled invasion than the emigrants from