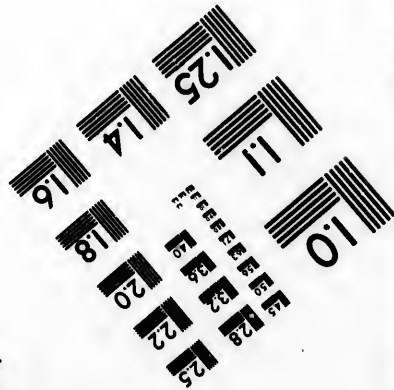
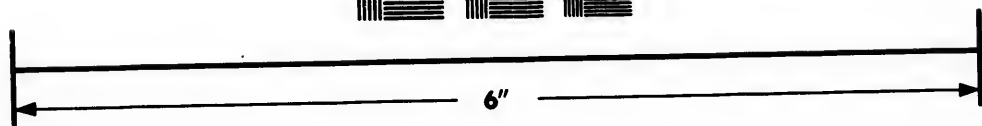
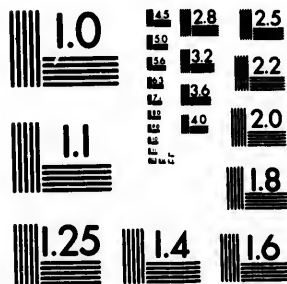


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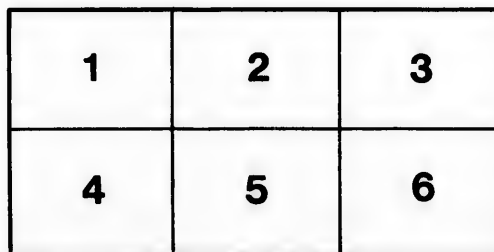
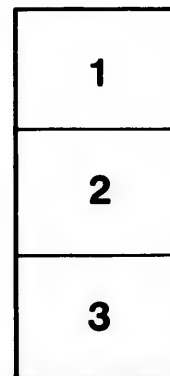
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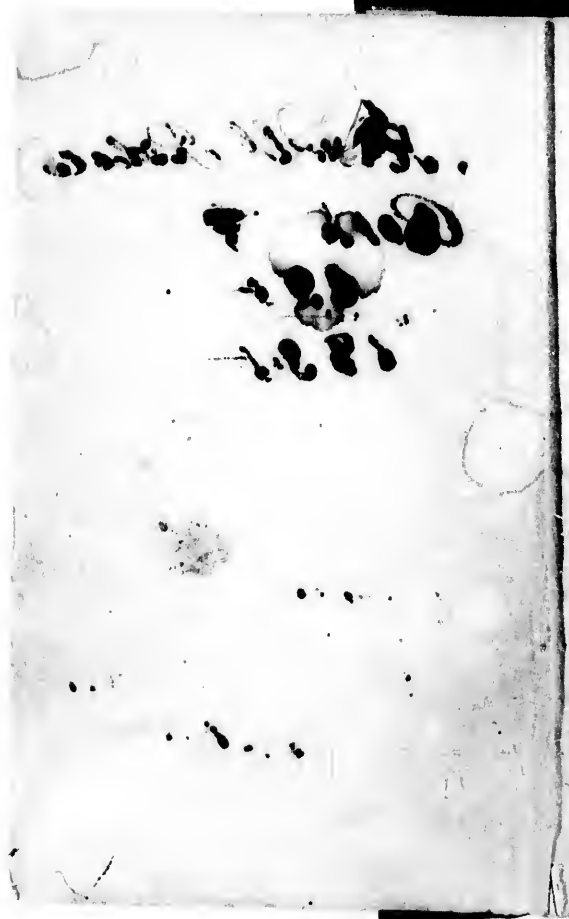
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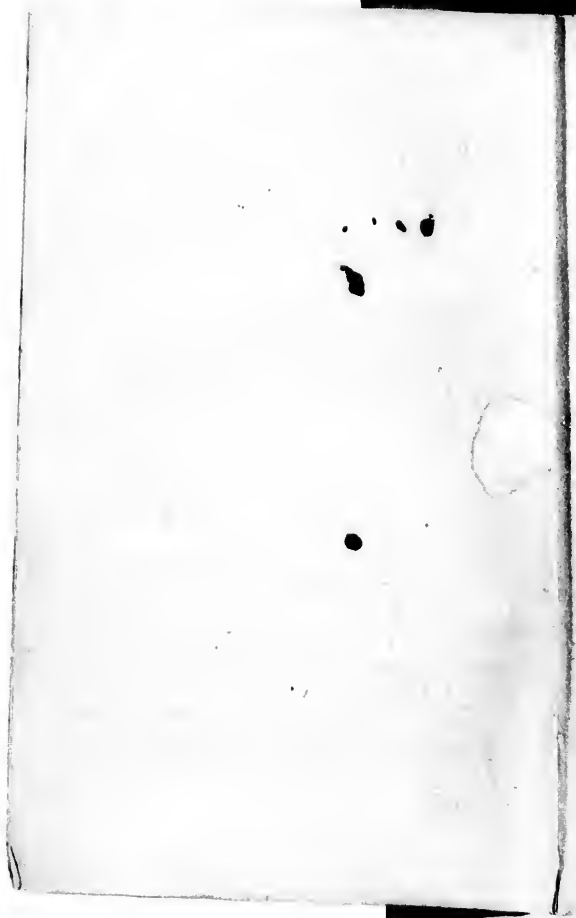


THE
HISTORY
OF THE
LATE WAR,
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN,
CONTAINING A
BRIEF RECAPITULATION OF THE EVENTS
WHICH LED TO THE
DECLARATION OF WAR,
ITS PROGRESS, AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE
VARIOUS BRILLIANT
LAND AND NAVAL VICTORIES,
INCLUDING THE
BATTLE OF NEW-ORLEANS.

Wheeling:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY A. & E. PICKET,
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS.

.....
1831.



PREFACE.

THE events of the late war have already exercised the pens of numerous writers, and certainly there could not be a more fruitful subject. The author has attempted a concise narrative of the principal occurrences, freed from voluminous and unnecessary naval and military details. The greater part of the works already published, are in too expensive a shape and bulk for general circulation, or for the use of schools. It is not every petty skirmish, or the unintelligible details of naval affairs, which is suited to the youthful mind: it is only from those important actions which shed honor on our country, that instruction can be derived.

What volume so favorable to the formation of the youthful mind, as that which asserts the

dignity of our country, which records the glorious actions of our countrymen, and which proves that our national character has risen under the influence of our political institutions? The author has therefore thrown in the back ground, the minor events of the late glorious war, in order to place in a more conspicuous point of view, those of a more important character. Our soldiers and sailors have done their duty, it remains for their children to value it as becomes the posterity of freemen, and to emulate the deeds of their fathers.

See Whiz!!!

PREFACE.

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CHAPTER I.

*Causes of the war with England—Orders in
Council—Impressment—Indian Hostilities.*

THE United States assumed a rank among the nations of the world, in one of the most stormy periods of its history. All Europe was convulsed with the effects of the French revolution. The mighty warrior which it called into political life, seemed to move as the genius of the tempest. One of his ruling maxims was never to tolerate a neutral; all therefore within the reach of his arm were either allies, vassals, or foes. England, whose erroncous policy had in the first instance given rise to this energy, chose to adopt the same maxim. She moreover appealed to the world as the defender of the liberties and rights of nations, and plainly denounced as traitors, those who declined a participation in her quarrels.

Fortunately for this country, the waves of the Atlantic rolled between it and the fury of the European belligerents. However desirous they

might be of engaging us in their mad contest, it could only be through insidious arts, by which the inexperienced are entrapped, or by repeated provocations. For twenty-five years, these designs were resisted with unshaken firmness. The advice of Washington, to keep aloof from the dangerous contest, was strictly observed. The nation was repeatedly exasperated beyond endurance, but the government opposed itself to the imprudent effects of wounded feeling. It appeared to be a contest between France and England which could injure us most, and on our part how long we could forbear. But there is a point at which this forbearance must become not only imprudent, but unjust. The pains we had taken to keep aloof from the European wars, at last came to be taken for pusillanimity, or at least for a want of energy in the structure of the government. It became fashionable to represent us as a mean and sordid race, incapable of any generous feeling, and exclusively devoted to self-interest, whom no insult no injury, could provoke to strike.

The practices at first resorted to for the purpose of engaging us to share their battles, were now converted into ordinary means of supplying

THE LATE WAR.

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HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 7

their coffers, or recruiting their strength. France
confiscated and plundered our ships, Spain and
some of the petty states followed the example, as
though our pacific policy had rendered us lawful
prey to all nations. England seemed to think
that she had a right to transfer our seamen to her
service at her pleasure. Thus situated, it be-
came no longer a matter of choice of the enemy,
or whether to content with both.

From Britain we had experienced great provo-
cation. This haughty power seemed to harbor
a dislike to us for having so bravely declared and
maintained our independence. Her conduct to-
wards us was uniformly disrespectful and con-
temptuous. She had called us rebels, she still
considered us as successful rebels, whose desti-
tution of principle must end, and cause us to
fall together by the ears and thus make room for
their expelled sovereign. Little did she know
of the real spirit of American liberty. The set-
tling down of this mighty republic into that sober
order and beautiful symmetry which at present it
possesses, appeared to her a state of anarchy.

The treaty of 1783, was shamefully slighted;
although at peace, she smote us with a concealed
hand: she instigated a dreadful Indian war, in

which thousands of American citizens were barbarously murdered. It will be long before the people of the Western country can forget the defeats of Harner and Sinclair, or the massacres of the frontier settlers. If there existed any particular desire for war on the part of the Union, this is surely enough to account for it. When the Indian hostilities were at last happily terminated by the bravery and prudence of General Wayne, and a treaty of peace in 1794, concluded with England, it was thought that we might at last indulge the first wish of our hearts, and live at peace: but we were greatly mistaken. Our growing prosperity could not be seen by her without envy; as she was at war with France, the carrying trade fell into our hands and greatly enriched our merchants. Britain resolved to put a stop to this by renewing what is called the rule of '56, established by her at that period, in order to embarrass the French commerce. It was founded ostensibly, upon the idea that neutrals ought not to alleviate the sufferings of war to a belligerent, by keeping up an intercourse between its different ports or colonies; but it was in reality, the result of a flagrant usurpation of the sovereignty of the seas. It was followed up by orders of

American citizens were barbarously treated. It will be long before the country can forget the death of General Sinclair, or the massacres of the Indians.

If there existed any partiality on the part of the Union, it would account for it. When the war at last happily terminated, the presence of General Wayne, in 1794, concluded with the treaty that we might at last in our hearts, and live at last free and happily mistaken. Our growth has not been seen by her without envy. With France, the carrying trade was greatly enriched and resolved to put a stop to the rule of '56, a short period, in order to emancipate commerce. It was founded on the principle that neutrals ought not to be drawn into a course of war to a belligerent, but that it was in reality, the violation of the sovereignty allowed up by orders of

council which restricted the American commerce, and exposed many of our ships to capture and condemnation. Britain not satisfied with these violations of the sacred laws of nations, established a new rule of blockade: but which she affected to consider as merely retaliatory; this was placing her enemy's ports in a state of blockade by mere proclamation, and without stationing any efficient force. Under these and many other pretences, the American flag could only be said to float on the ocean at her will and pleasure.

There was another grievance which she practised upon us, even more insupportable than those enumerated. Very soon after our commercial enterprise began to spread its wings, it was found that our seamen were exposed to be taken on the high seas, from underneath the flag of their country, and dragged on board the British men of war, where they were compelled to serve for years. No Algerine servitude could be worse. The abuse was very soon so severely felt as to become a cause of indignant remonstrance on the part of President Washington, and afterwards of every successive statesman, to whom was entrusted the safety of the commonwealth. The British alleged in excuse, for it was nothing more, the

difficulty of distinguishing between her subjects, and the citizens of this country. It appeared, however, that very little care was taken on her part to avoid the abuses which must necessarily result; for this investigation was usually entrusted to a petty officer, who was either not disposed or incapable of proceeding fairly to work; and people of every color, and of every nation, were equally liable to be impressed, or more properly speaking, kidnapped. This distressing outrage, was the constant theme of complaint on the part of the American government; but instead of redress we had the mortification of seeing it augmented. American ships on the high seas, were sometimes left without a sufficient number of men to navigate them, exposing the lives of the remainder and ruining the voyage. Indignities not to be borne, were heaped upon our unfortunate countrymen; the certificates of their nativity with which they had provided themselves, a kind of humiliation to which no other people had ever been exposed, was taken from them, torn in pieces and scattered to the winds. To so great an extent had this violation of all human rights been carried, that it was estimated that in the year 1810, there were not less than seven

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thousand American seamen who had been drag-
ged on board the British ships of war, serving
against their will, and consequently in a barba-
rous state of slavery. All this was heightened
by the unparalleled insolence of the British naval
commanders on our waters. The patience of the
people of this country was almost exhausted, when
the climax of insult was offered in the attack on
the Chesapeake, where five American citizens
were taken from on board a national vessel, after
attacking the vessel in the most unexpected man-
ner. Finding at last, that war would be the in-
evitable consequence of this wanton act, they
humbled themselves so far as to offer a repara-
tion, in the return of the seamen to the deck of
their ship; but this was not done promptly and
magnanimously, but came late and was ungracious
in its circumstances.

This storm only blew over that another might
be fomented. The United States were at this
epoch, the only neutral in the Christian world, all
other nations were involved in war. France,
mistress of the land, and England of the sea.
Both of these nations were in the habit of exer-
cising all the privileges of war towards us, as
far as lay in their power, while we were pursuing
our policy of peace.

What could we now do? The first and simplest idea which suggested itself, was to stay at home, where we could be more safe than in stirring abroad exposed to be assailed by a tyger or lion watching for his prey. An embargo was laid: but the experiment of some months, proved that from the great extent of our sea coasts, and the small extent of our patriotism, it could not be enforced. It was therefore taken off, and in place of it a law was passed forbidding all intercourse with France and England. By this means we were still enabled to carry on some trade with Spain, the West Indies, and the nations round the Baltic. But we were not long in discovering, that an escape from war was inevitable. Our national character had sunk abroad, and appeared to be sinking at home; and what man or society of men ever prospered, with infamy attached to their reputations? The American was ashamed to own his country while abroad. Throughout the whole nation, the opinion was fast gaining ground that we must have war. But against which of the belligerents should it be waged? This was the question. We had abundant cause for complaint against both. The vast fleet of England would drive our little navy from the

do? The first and simplest itself, was to stay at home more safe than in stir, to be assailed by a tyger or prey. An embargo was laid out of some months, proved the want of our sea coasts, and patriotism, it could not be therefore taken off, and in consequence forbidding all inter-communication with England. By this means we could not carry on some trade with the continent, and the nations round about were not long in discovering, that a war was inevitable. Our ships were sunk abroad, and appeared to be the work of what man or society could do, with infamy attached to the name of the American was ashamed to be seen while abroad. Throughout the world opinion was fast gaining against us, and we had no chance to have war. But against all odds, should it be waged? We had abundant cause for it on both sides. The vast fleet of our little navy from the

ocean, and lay our flourishing cities in ashes. With respect to France, a war would be a mere flourish, for we could neither meet their forces by land or sea, unless we chose to thrust ourselves into the tyger's den. The course adopted by the administration, was perhaps upon the whole the wisest; that was, to leave it to the choice of the belligerents themselves. The ports of the United States were therefore closed against both, but would be opened to that one which would first rescind his obnoxious decrees or orders in council, and then would come the question of peace or war. To these fair and equitable terms England acceded; the French minister formally and solemnly declared to our government, that the Berlin and Milan decrees were repealed; on this being made known to the Prince Regent and the English cabinet, they shuffled and quibbled, and affected to regard the evidence of the repeal on the part of the French insufficient. It was in vain to say that we, the only persons really affected or exposed to injury by their existence, were satisfied; they could not be repealed.

It now became as clear as the light, that nothing fair, candid or honorable, was to be looked for by us from England. She basely persisted

in the most iniquitous scheme of plunder and oppression, and declined under every species of subterfuge, the numerous proffers of the American government to remedy the evils of impressment.

These were not the only causes of irritation against Great Britain. Besides coming in contact with her on the sea, where she harassed our commerce and kidnapped our fellow citizens, we also came in collision on the land. Our situation with France was materially different, we might shun her if we chose, but not so with England, for if we withdrew from the ocean, she could still harass us in consequence of our vicinity. From the influence of the fur companies of the North West, all the Indian nations in that quarter, were at their disposal, not excepting the nations which resided within the territorial limits of the United States. This influence was liable to abuse, and in fact was continually abused; the poor deluded creatures were wrought upon by presents and artful tales, became inimical to the Americans. An Indian chief of uncommon ability had at this time acquired the ascendancy over all the scattered tribes along the lakes, and on the waters of the Ohio. He had been a fierce enemy of the whites since the first settlement of the country, and was

scheme of plunder and oppression under every species of sub-proffers of the American evils of impressment. The only causes of irritation

Besides coming in contact, where she harassed our fellow citizens, we were on the land. Our situation was essentially different, we might as well not so with England, on the ocean, she could still be of our vicinity. From her companies of the North were in that quarter, were excepting the nations which were territorial limits of the United States was liable to abuse, and she abused; the poor deluded were upon by presents and articles to the Americans. An American ability had at this time been over all the scattered and on the waters of the fierce enemy of the whites of the country, and was

one of the most noted warriors that had appeared. The name of this savage was Tecumseh, who was aided by an artful Indian, a kind of high-priest or juggler, called the Prophet, his brother. The one appealing to superstitious fears, the other commanding respect, exciting awe, were soon found to be useful tools in the hands of the British.

Hence, the prevailing wish through the United States of conquering Canada; not from any benefit or advantage, it might be to the human race. But could we possess Canada, war would be only known on the ocean and coast.

In the autumn, 1811, serious differences arose between us and the Indians on the Wabash, and ostensible causes of which, was a purchase made by Governor Harrison, of a large tract of land in the Indiana territory, from the Indians. At a treaty near Vincennes, Tecumseh behaved in the most insolent manner, and openly threatened to dig up the tomahawk from under the tree of peace. The hostile deportment of the Indians soon after induced the Governor to call to his aid the 4th regiment of United States' infantry, under Col. Boyd, and a body of volunteer militia from Kentucky, besides a small body of militia from Indi-

ann. With these he proceeded up the Wabash with the intention of building a fort near the Prophet's town, near a branch of the Wabash called Tippecanoe, since become famous. On his arrival he was met by the Prophet, Winimac, and some other chiefs, who professed to be peaceably disposed, requested him to encamp for the day and promised to come the next morning and hold a council of peace. With this request the Governor complied, unsuspecting of their treachery. Towards morning, the Indians led on by Winimac suddenly assailed the camp, having killed the sentinels with arrows. They were received with great resolution but were not repulsed until after a bloody conflict of two hours, in which the Americans lost upwards of 180 in killed and wounded, among whom were many valuable officers.

Colonel Davies, one of the first men in Kentucky, or perhaps, in this country, was among the slain. Col. Boyd and the 4th acquired much honor. The loss of the Indians was estimated at 150. These misguided people soon after sued for peace, which was granted. But through the instigation of the British, the Prophet and Tecumseh soon after renewed hostilities, by murder-

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ing several families on the frontiers. The war
which was about to break forth in this quarter,
soon after merged into more important events,—
and which it is the business of the present nar-
rative to detail.

Declaration of War—State of the Country.

The Twelfth Congress continued in session
long beyond the usual time of adjournment, in
consequence of the crisis which was thought to
be approaching. On the 5th of June, 1812, Pre-
sident Madison laid before Congress the corre-
spondence of our Charge d'Affaires in London
with the British government, which put an end
to all hope of the repeal of the Orders in Coun-
cil. Every attempt to arrange the matter of im-
pressment had also failed. In the opinion of the
President, there appeared to be no possible mea-
sure left for us to pursue, but a Declaration of
War.

This being referred to the Committee of Fo-
reign Relations, they drew up an able Report in
which a full view was taken of all our causes of

complaint against Great Britain, and they concurred fully in the opinion of the President, that nothing was left but an appeal to arms.

After sitting several days with closed doors, the important appeal was announced on the 18th of June, and the next day war was formally proclaimed.

For thirty years our favored and happy country had smiled beneath the blessings of peace and prosperity. With the exception indeed, of the distant Algerine war and the occasional hostilities on the remote frontier. It was our first national war since the declaration of independence, and with the nation from whom our independence had been won. We considered the appeal to arms inevitable; we confided to the justice of our cause, and trusted to heaven for its issue.

The means provided for carrying on a contest with one of the most powerful nations on the globe were extremely slender. Our army did not exceed 5000 men, and those distributed over a surface of several thousand miles. A law had passed for the purpose of enlarging it to 25,000 men; but little or no progress had been made in enlistment. Our navy consisted of a few frigates

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and smaller vessels of war, not more than thirty
 in number while that of the enemy, exceeded a
 thousand ships. Our great commercial towns
 were not yet completely fortified, although for
 some years, considerable pains had been taken to
 fortify them. We had no overflowing treasury to
 furnish the abundant means of creating the ne-
 cessary force and supplies; and the American
 people had been burthened with no taxes.

Great Britain had laughed at the idea of our
 going to war; our confederation, which she called
 a rope of sand, in her opinion, would crumble at
 the sound of the war trumpet. Our navy was
 the standing butt of her ridicule, and our "fir-
 built frigates," the subjects of her continued jests;
 "the bits of striped bunting," as she called our
 glorious flag, now resplendent with the stars of
 freedom, would soon disappear from the ocean.
 But Providence has decreed, that the keenest
 disappointments shall ever attend the boastful and
 vainglorious.

The Americans looked to Canada as the vul-
 nerable part of Great Britain. Whatever intrin-
 sic value this province might be to her, pride at
 least, would render it an object worth contending
 for. To us, it could be only of advantage as the

means of compelling her to a speedy peace, and securing our frontiers against the murderous Indians.

We were already at war with the North Western Indians, such troops as we could spare had been ordered to the frontier, with the double view of putting an end to those hostilities, and to be in the best situation for striking a blow at Canada. It was well known that there were no great preparations on the side of the British, and it was natural to suppose, that by a prompt and vigorous attack on the unprotected provinces, we should be masters of the whole country from Niagara upwards. This would effectually cut off all hope of aid to the British from the Indians, and would enable us to concentrate our forces on Lake Ontario, by which means, with the aid of the regular troops in that quarter, and the militia of New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont, Upper Canada would fall in the course of a few months, and in the spring we might successfully advance against Quebec.

LATE WAR.

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HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 21

*Invasion of Canada by General Hull—Battles of
Brownstown and Maguaga—Hull evacuates
Canada—British invasion and surrender of
Hull.*

HULL, the Governor of the Michigan territory, who had been a distinguished officer during the revolutionary war, having been appointed a brigadier in the service of the United States, was on his march to Detroit, the capital of the territory, at the moment of the declaration of war. His force consisted of about two thousand men, nearly one half regulars, the remainder volunteers from the state of Ohio, and well supplied with the necessary munitions of war. On reaching the rapids of Miami, he freighted a schooner with the principal part of his baggage, that his march might be lightened; but to his astonishment, the capture of the vessel which soon after followed, gave him the first intimation of the existing state of hostilities, and it was not until shortly before he reached Detroit, that he received the official intelligence of the formal declaration. The British, in consequence of their settlements along the Lake, and the employment of swift couriers, had been able to convey the information several days before it reached the American posts. From

the nature of our government, there is no possibility of knowing with certainty, the exact time of our making war, until its actual declaration; the British had, therefore, almost as early intelligence of it as our executive. It is also said, that the American messenger, was somewhat detained by an unforeseen accident.

The arrival of Hull was little more than in time to save Detroit, which the British were on the point of attacking. A few well directed shot, compelled them to abandon the works which they had erected on the opposite side of the river. Hull, who had discretionary power to act offensively, resolved to possess himself of the British post on the opposite side of the river, by which means, he would at once end the Indian war, and cut off all communication with the North West establishments, and the lower Provinces. The American garrisons and forts on the Wabash, Mississippi, Lakes, &c. would in such event, be completely protected. By obtaining a firm footing in this country, another object would also be secured; the inhabitants, chiefly emigrants from the United States, would be induced to join the American standard, and facilitate the active conquest of the country.

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British to facilitate the active con-

On the 12th of July, Hull with the principal
part of his forces, crossed the river, and after a
feeble opposition, took possession of Sandwich.
Here he issued a proclamation, in which he
stated his force to be sufficient to "look down all
opposition," threatening destruction without mer-
cy to all who should be found fighting by the side
of an Indian, and offering protection to the inha-
bitants who would join his standard. But this
proclamation was followed up by no prompt and
vigorous measures against the British garrison,
which at this time was in no condition to resist
a vigorous assault. He contented himself with
detaching Colonels Cass and M'Arthur, to take
possession of the country along the river Thames,
and loitered away his time in useless skirmishes.
A sharp skirmish took place a few days after the
landing, at the river Aux Canards, with a party
of the enemy stationed to guard the bridge, which
crossed the river on the road to Malden. The
enemy was compelled to retire, with the loss of
eleven killed and wounded; but the passage ap-
peared to be gained, with no other view than be-
ing immediately abandoned.

Hull now concluded that Malden could not be
taken without heavy artillery, and a regular siege,

and in consequence sat about making preparations which ought to have preceded the invasion. While his proclamation was figuring away in the United States, and every day was expected to bring the news of the taking of Malden, the vast advantages which would necessarily follow, this General was fast losing the confidence of his own troops, by his want of decision and incapacity for command. It appeared that he had either become superannuated, or that his merit in a subordinate station during the revolution was no just criterion of his talents as a leader. The British officer, General *Brook*, who was a man of talents, was not long in knowing the kind of adversary he had to deal with, and from being at first apprehensive that he could not withstand the great superiority of the American force, began to conceive hope of being able to take advantage of the incapacity of the American, he threw light parties of regulars and Indians under the celebrated chief Tecumseh, on the road between the state of Ohio and Detroit, so as to intercept the American supplies. Hull was compelled to turn his attention to keeping open the communication, while the preparation for the siege of Malden, advanced at a snail's pace. It was not until the 1st of August,

LATE WAR.

without making preparations preceded the invasion. The day was expected to be a day of Malden, the vast consequences necessarily follow, this was the confidence of his own decision and incapacity for that he had either become a merit in a subordinate position was no just criterion. The British officer, as a man of talents, was of a kind of adversary he had being at first apprehensive and the great superiority began to conceive hope of the advantage of the incapacity drew light parties of regular the celebrated chief Tecumseh between the state of Ohio to intercept the American supplies, he turned his attention to communication, while the preparations of Malden, advanced at a rate not until the 1st of August,

HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 25

that two twenty-four pounders and three howitzers were mounted and even then he appeared at a loss what to do with them. Dangers and difficulties appeared every moment to thicken around him: on the 23d of July, he received intelligence that Michilimackinac, had surrendered to the British. Lieutenant Hanks, who commanded this important fortress, was suddenly encompassed by a body of the enemy, and a great number of the Indians, which to him was the first intimation of hostilities. As it was in vain to contend against so great a superiority of force he was compelled to capitulate. There being nothing now to keep the Indians in check, and the men in the service of the North Western Fur Company being collected, a considerable reinforcement might be expected by the British General. Hull alarmed at this danger of his situation which was greatly augmented by his fears, dispatched a messenger for assistance to the Governor of Ohio, and to Gen. Hull, commanding at Niagara. The astonishment excited by this news was universal; the morning which had been so fair in hope, was thus suddenly obscured with lowering darkness.

To a man of mental resource, the situation was not yet desperate. The force of Hull was

vastly superior to that of the British; his heavy cannon was at last prepared and mounted on floating batteries; and the American officers and soldiers indulged an expectation, of soon attempting something, to merit the applause of their country. The day was actually fixed for the meditated attack, but to the inexpressible astonishment, and universal indignation of the brave Americans, orders were given by this wretched commander, to abandon the British side, and retreat to Detroit. At once every hope of renown was dashed from them, and they had before their eyes, the hateful prospect of becoming the scorn of their country, and the ridicule of its enemies. The British general was, at the same time, fully confirmed in his opinion which he had formed of the American commander. Hull, in his disgraceful retreat, abandoned to the mercy of the British the deluded inhabitants who had confided in his pompous offers of protection, and effectively prevented any further co-operation on the part of the Canadians, who otherwise might have been induced to join the United States to assert their independence.

Shortly before this, a party had reached the river Raisin, with additional supplies for the Ame-

Col. J. C. Snelling

LATE WAR.

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rican camp, under captain Bush; but in conse-
quence of the road being infested by Indians,
were obliged to halt, and wait until escorted by a
sufficient force. A detachment of 150 men were
despatched under Major Vanhorn, who was at-
tacked near Brownstown, by a superior force of
the enemy, and after a severe contest, were obli-
ged to retreat with the loss of 19 killed and wound-
ed; of the former, captains Gilcrease, McCul-
luch, and Bolster, of the latter, captain Ury.

On the return of this party, it was deemed an
object of serious consequence to make an effort
to clear the road. While the enemy, well know-
ing that another attempt would soon be made,
posted a much larger force of regulars and In-
dians, at a place called Maguaga, in advance of
the former scene of action. For this service,
which had now become of the first importance,
the American general selected the veteran Col.
Miller with 300 regulars of the 4th regiment, and
about 200 militia. On the 9th of August, the
day after Hull had evacuated the British territory,
the gallant Miller, although advancing with great
caution, was attacked by the enemy from an am-
buscade. His advance guard, under captain
Snelling, was suddenly encompassed on all sides

by Indians and British, but he kept them off until succored by the main body. An animated action took place; after keeping up a warm fire for some time, Colonel Miller ordered a charge upon the British Regulars, who fought under cover of a breast-work of logs and trees. They were immediately routed; but the Indians in the woods under Tecumseh, maintained the contest for some time longer. The enemy was finally compelled to retire, and were driven to their boats in which they precipitately embarked. The American loss in this affair was 15 killed and 50 wounded; that of the British about the same. The Americans were so much fatigued by this action, which lasted three hours, that they halted on the ground, and the next day, received orders from Hull to return to Detroit. It had been resolved to open a communication with Captain Bush through the woods, and for this purpose Colonels Cass and Miller were detached with a strong detachment of 400 men.

By this time the British general had resolved upon the bold attempt of invading the American side, and attacking Hull. He took a position opposite Detroit, and on the 15th, sent over a flag, demanding in form the surrender of the Ameri-

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can garrison, in which he magnified his force in
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ner. Hull returned, however, for answer, that
the place would be defended to the last extre-
mity.

The next day the enemy were discovered cross-
ing the river for the purpose of attacking the
fort. Hull, the evening before had sent to recall
by forced marches, the detachment under Miller
and Cass. No preparations were made by him
to oppose the landing of the British troops, but
the Americans were so disposed behind the pick-
eting and fences of the village, and in the fort
as to annoy their advance. On an eminence, two
twenty-four pounders charged with grape, were
posted in a situation to sweep the advancing
columns of the invader; add to to this the detach-
ment out on duty might be expected to arrive in
time to partake of the action, and assail the
enemy in the rear. At ten o'clock, the British
force, about 700 strong, and some skulking In-
dians, were seen to advance in the direction in
which they would meet certain destruction; when
suddenly, and without the slightest cause, the
American commander gave orders for the troops
to abandon their positions, and betake themselves

to the fort, while the officers commanding the heavy artillery were enjoined not to fire. In the midst of this strange suspense, the British still continued slowly and cautiously to advance. The American general seemed to have lost all presence of mind, and to have been under the influence of the most unaccountable panic. In this state of affairs, he ordered a white flag to be suspended from the fort in token of submission. A British officer who rode up to ascertain the cause, could hardly believe it until the capitulation was made. The astonishment and mortification of the Americans at being thus surrendered, can only be imagined, and was only equalled by the grief which overspread their country when it came to be made known.

The British were put in the possession of the whole province, with all the public stores and arms, among which were several trophies of the revolution. The American general was afterwards tried, and condemned to suffer death, but in consequence of his advanced years, and his revolutionary services, he was pardoned.

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CHAPTER IV.

*Naval Affairs—Capture of the Gurriere—Naval
Victories.*

No sooner was the war declared, than our little navy, in gallant trim, issued in separate ships, or small squadrons, from the different ports, and a hundred privateers soon after darted upon the foe. The national chagrin had scarcely worn off, when the general attention was directed towards the ocean. It was not long before the trident was torn from the grasp of Britannia, and the red cross laid at the feet of the victorious America.

Com. Rodgers put to sea in June, and steered in pursuit of the West India convoy; while thus engaged, he gave chase to the *Belvidera* a British frigate, leaving his squadron in the rear. But the enemy being a faster sailer, and having other advantages effected her escape, though not without loss. The commodore received a severe wound and had 19 of his men killed by the bursting of a gun. The squadron then crossed the Atlantic,—and after a cruise of three months, by which the return of the American commerce was much facilitated, arrived at Boston with several prizes.

The Essex and other national vessels sailed about the same time. The Constitution, captain Hull, was chased for two days, but through consummated seamanship of this commander she escaped.

These events prepared the public for something of a splendid character, but the occurrence which soon after took place, far transcended our most sanguine hopes. In the skill and gallantry of our naval commanders, the nation reposed the highest confidence, but they had not yet been matched with the boasted lords of the seas. The British looked to victory as the boasted lords of the seas. The British looked to victory with the confidence of a people habituated to conquer. They seemed to have no other wish than to prevail on the Americans to meet them. Better for them that meeting had never taken place. The Guerriere, one of the finest frigates that ever sailed upon the ocean, vauntingly displayed her pendant with a variety of insulting mottoes, before the American harbors. Her commodore began to fear that no foe could be found sufficiently bold to encounter him. On the memorable 19th of September, the Constitution hove in sight; with satisfaction the Briton beheld her

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HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 33

bearing down, and backed his topsails to wait her approach. For some time, they tried each other's skill in naval manœuvring, but the *Guerriere* finding that nothing was to be gained in this way poured out her broadsides. Great was her wonder to find them not returned. Several of Hull's brave fellows had fallen. The souls of the Americans were on fire; still they patiently waited the orders of their commander. That moment pregnant with so much glory to themselves and their country, came at last. Sailing-master Aylwin had admirably seconded the views of the commander, and orders were given to fire broadside after broadside in quick succession. The work was done as if by the thunderbolts of Jove. In fifteen minutes the proud frigate was a wreck; in fifteen more her flag came down, and the vessel was on the point of sinking. "Free trade and sailor's rights," triumphed over the tyrants of the sea.

Great was the disproportion between the killed and wounded of the adverse frigates. The *Guerriere* had 15 killed and 60 wounded; the *Constitution*, 7 killed and 7 wounded. One hour after the American would have been ready to try the fortune of arms with another Englishman. The

department of the Americans to their prisoners, was the most generous and humane: the prize was burnt and blown up, it being quite impossible to bring her in. After making a few captures the Constitution returned on the 23d of September. The news of this glorious affair spread on the wings of the wind. Full, indeed, was our recompence for past misfortunes. All the circumstances of this unparalleled combat were of the most pleasing kind. As some reward for this signal service to his country, Hull was presented with the freedom of all the cities through which he passed on his way to the seat of government, and on the meeting of Congress, a liberal allowance made to himself and his crew, in consequence of his inability to bring the enemy's ship into port.

From this time to the close of the war, the American newspapers were filled with accounts of naval exploits performed both in private and public armed vessels. Captain Porter, in the Essex, in a daring manner cut out a brig from a convoy, and found on board 14,000 dollars in specie, and 150 soldiers. He afterwards captured the Alert (which was in search of the Hornet) and was on the point of engaging a frigate

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when he was separated by the approach of night,
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The President sailed again in October, and
 captured the British frigate *Swallow*, with 200,000
 dollars on board. The *Argus* which had parted
 from the squadron, was also fortunate. She
 captured several valuable prizes, and after vari-
 ous narrow escapes, arrived at last in safety at
 New York. The gallant commodore Decatur,
 in the frigate *United States*, added another laurel
 to those which already graced his brow. On the
 25th of October he fell in with the *Macedonian*,
 Captain Carden, a British frigate of the largest
 class. The engagement lasted two hours in con-
 sequence of the roughness of the sea. The fire
 of the American was so remarkable, that the
 enemy at one moment thought her on fire. Licu-
 tenant Funk and Allen were highly distinguished
 in this affair: the former unhappily received a
 mortal wound. The Commodore safely reached
 New York with his prize, and was received by
 the applause of his country.

Another naval victory was some time after an-
 nounced, won after a short, but to the enemy a
 most sanguinary conflict. Capt. Jones of the
Wasp, a sloop of war, fell in with the *Frolic*, 22

guns, Capt. Whinyates. The superiority was somewhat on the side of the Briton. At first the chance appeared in his favor; the rigging of the Wasp had suffered in a gale the day before, and the roughness of the water prevented the Americans from bringing their guns to bear with their usual effects. The engagement lasted nearly an hour; the vessels gradually nearing each other until the rammers touched their sides; the Frolic was at length taken by boarding; in forty minutes after they came to close quarters the Americans were in possession. Her decks exhibited a most shocking spectacle, her rigging had been much cut up, and both decks were strewed with the dead and wounded.

The Americans on this occasion, displayed their characteristic humanity. The loss on board the Frolic was 30 killed and 50 wounded: that of the Wasp was only 5 killed and 5 wounded. Both these vessels were some days afterwards captured by the Poitiers 74, Captain Beresford.

Never was any war so wonderfully successful as that waged against the Goliath of the ocean. The first year of the war was a continued series of naval victories. In a few months the enemy

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lost upwards of two hundred and fifty merchants
 vessels, two of her frigates and several smaller
 public vessels. In Great Britain, the marvellous
 deeds, at first disbelieved, soon produced a deep
 chagrin and even dismay. The main pillar of her
 strength was torn away. Unwilling to acknow-
 ledge the superiority of the new enemy she sought
 to deceive herself by the idle estimates of the
 comparative force, and by the invention of fan-
 cied mishaps: had we lived in an age of super-
 stition, it would have been attributed to
 magic.

On the Lakes, those interior seas, whose bor-
 ders are destined to become the joyful residence
 of millions of our fellow creatures, there appeared
 to be an approaching naval struggle. The Cale-
 donia and the brig Adams, loaded with furs, had
 come down the Lake early in October, and an-
 chored under the guns of the British fort. Lieut.
 Elliot of the navy, who had some short time be-
 fore arrived with a number of our brave tars in
 order to provide a naval force, early in the morn-
 ing, slipped down with some of his gallant fel-
 lows, boarded and carried the two vessels. In
 ten minutes afterwards he was under way, but the
 Adams unfortunately ran aground before he could

secure her, the other however, was safely brought off, and was found to have on board 200,000 dollars worth of furs.

CHAPTER V.

B. He of Queenstown—General Smythe assumes command—Colonel Pike's incursion.

DURING the summer and autumn, a considerable force was collected along the Niagara, consisting of regulars and militia, occupying the best position for following up the blow to be struck by Hull. The spirit of the nation had recovered from the mortifying occurrence already detailed, while the success of our navy had awakened in the breast of every American an ardent wish to restore the honor of the country. An incident which occurred in this quarter kindled this ardor to its utmost height, this was the capture of the British vessels on the Lake which we have related in the last chapter. The American forces now commanded by General Van Rensselaer, besought him to lead them against the enemy. Unwilling to damp their ardor and at the same time

LATE WAR.

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HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 39

flattering himself with the hope of being able to seize the opposite shore, and by that means intercept the communication of the enemy above, as well as with the lower Provinces, materially assist the force of the West about to rally and expel the invaders of our territory.

Accordingly on the 12th of October, the corps composing the van of the invading army consisting of three hundred men, under Col. Van Rensselaer and Col. Christie with about the same number of regulars, a detachment of infantry under Major Mulaney, and the artillery of Col. Fenwick, made good their landing in the face of the enemy's batteries, and rapidly storming the enemy's height, possessed themselves completely of the Canada shore. The troops of Buffalo and Lewistown had been marched for the purpose of crossing over when this could be effected in order to secure what should be gained.

Colonel Van Rensselaer was severely wounded, almost as soon as he had landed; but with undaunted firmness he still continued to give orders. About the time of crossing, they were joined by colonel Scott, who made a rapid march with his artillery, in order to share the honors of the day. The British were driven in all direc-

tions, but soon after returned with large reinforcements of regulars and Indians, led by Gen. Brock in person, nearly three times the numbers of the Americans. This additional force was fiercely withstood, and compelled to retire with disgrace. The British general, mortified at the conduct of his troops, led them a second time to the charge, but while in the act of urging them on, he fell mortally wounded, and they once more gave way. It was now four o'clock, three times had the foe been routed, all that was requisite to complete the business of the day, was for the volunteers on the opposite shore to cross over and reap the laurels which had been won. The General crossed over for this purpose, but what pen can describe the vexation which filled his heart when he found that they had *constitutional* objections to crossing the straight! no persuasions could prevail on them. On one page of this affair Americans will dwell with delight, from the next they will turn with disgust. The regulars and volunteers on the Canada side waited in vain for the aid of their comrades. The clouds of war were once more gathering around them. The enemy returned to the combat goaded by shame, by rage, and by the hope of subduing numbers so

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inferior. For an hour the fight raged with unexampled fury; a few of the Americans attempted a retreat to their own shore, but the greater part were at last compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers.

The American officers were highly distinguished. General Wadsworth, of the volunteers, Colonels Van Rensselaer, and Christie, were much applauded, as also Captains Wool, Gibson, Ogilvie, Armstrong, and many others. About 60 were killed, 100 wounded, and about 1000 taken prisoners. The British 49th regiment, called "the invincibles," formed a part of their force. The loss of the enemy was very considerable in killed and wounded.

On the fall of Gen. Brock, Gen. Sheaffe succeeded to the command. In many things he was wanting in regard to the duties of humanity which might have been expected from a generous enemy. He imposed no restraint upon the savages, who were permitted to practice their horrid treatment to the dead and wounded. During the funeral of General Brock, minute guns were fired from the American fort as a testimony of respect for the character of a brave enemy.

It was a most unfortunate circumstance that the Americans failed in their attempt on the Canada shore. It became afterwards the glorious theatre of American valor, but had we obtained possession, the troops would have been well housed for the winter, and the spring campaign would have opened with results very different to those which followed.

In the course of this parti-colored day, a cannonade was kept up from the forts and batteries on the opposite sides of the water. Considerable execution was done by the Americans, with comparatively trifling injury by the enemy.

The command of this force was soon after resigned to General Smythe, of the United States Army, an officer who stood high as a tactician, but who had not shewn himself in the field. Desirous of contrasting his talents with those of his predecessor, he set about making preparations for a more successful invasion of the Canada shore before the close of the season although it was now far advanced. On examining the ground he fancied that the failure of the former attempt was to be attributed to the injudicious selection of the place of landing. He first issued a proclamation calling on volunteers from all quarters,

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and on the 17th of November, announced to the
 army of the centre, his intention of crossing into
 Canada. It was not, however, until the 28th of
 November, that all things were prepared for the
 intended enterprize. Two detachments, one un-
 der Colonel Winder, and the other under Colonel
 Bærstler, were to cross before day to seize the
 batteries, and keep them until the main body
 should pass the river.

At three o'clock they got under way in ten
 boats, but on approaching the shore, they found
 the enemy apprised, and actually opened a fire
 the whole length of their batteries. The greater
 part of the invading force was compelled to put
 back, having been carried down by the current
 which is here exceedingly rapid. Two small
 detachments alone effected a landing, one under
 Col. Bærstler, the other under Captain King, at
 distant points from each other; but making a
 bold assault, and at the same time raising a shout
 the British were induced to believe that the in-
 termediate space was occupied by the whole
 American army, and fled precipitately their
 posts leaving all the batteries undefended. The
 boats which returned to the American side, by
 their report, produced a suspense in the mind of

the General, in consequence of his ignorance of the fate of the handful of men who had effected their landing.

Two thousand men who were embarked, waited impatiently for orders to move, but the commander still hesitated what to do. An equal number paraded on the shore in readiness to proceed as a reserve. In the mean time day began to dawn, and the enemy having superior force was greatly astonished to find the invading foe scarcely exceeded thirty men, who were made prisoners of war. The British force collected was less than 500 men, but concealing themselves in the woods, and winding their bugles lustily, induced a belief their numbers were very great. General Smythe concluding, that any further prosecution of this invasion would be useless, therefore announced its abandonment greatly to the dissatisfaction of the troops who were on this occasion earnestly desirous of wiping away the stain of former disgrace. It was with difficulty that he could calm their minds by declaring his intention of making a more effectual attempt.

On the Tuesday following, the troops were actually embarked, and General Porter who was to lead the van anxiously waited the orders to

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proceed. Every thing promised success, as far as depended on the good conduct of the troops. Suddenly, to the astonishment of the whole army, orders were issued by the General, announcing his intention of renouncing the invasion for the season, and to retire into winter quarters. The discontent of the American volunteers thus disappointed, was not confined to murmurs, many threatened the life of the General, who was compelled to place a guard near his person for his safety.

The General, after endeavoring to establish his courage and prudence by challenging General Porter of the New York volunteers, thought proper to retire from the command. He withdrew to his seat in Virginia, where he was permitted to remain quietly during the remainder of the war.

The forces collected on the St. Lawrence, with the exception of some skirmishes, did little worthy of being recorded. On the 19th of October, Colonel Pike, a promising and rising officer, already highly esteemed as an enterprising and chivalrous soldier, made an incursion into Canada, defeated a body British and Indians, destroyed a block-house, and returned with only five men wounded.

CHAPTER VI.

Affairs of the West — Movements of General Harrison.

We return to the affairs of the West after the melancholy surrender of Hull. Nearer the scene of action, the Western States were more deeply chagrined than other parts of the Union. Many of their citizens had been compelled to share in the burthen of the heavy disgrace. In the reaction of the public feelings, an enthusiastic spirit was enkindled, and the desire of regaining the conquered territory and of avenging the insult, universally prevailed. At Louisville, and Newport, large bodies of volunteers were continually collecting: in the state of Ohio, at several points, a similar alacrity had collected large bodies of private citizens who had suddenly taken up arms. In consequence of the numbers flocking to the places of rendezvous, rendered it necessary that orders should be issued to prevent the assemblage of troops so far exceeding the necessities of the occasion; whole companies were dismissed as supernumerary. General Harrison, the most popular military man to the westward, was called

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to the command of the volunteers, and of such
regulars as had been collected. This took place
in September. His first step after organizing his
force and distributing it to the most important
points, was to relieve the frontier posts now in
great danger, and to send detachments in various
directions into the Indian country. One of these,
fort Harrison, situated on the Wabash, had been
in the mean time attacked by a large body of In-
dians in the night; the situation of the besieged
was at one moment desperate, in consequence of
the wooden barracks within the picketing having
been set on fire; nothing but the admirable cool-
ness of the commanding officer, Captain Taylor,
preserved the lives of the unfortunate soldiers
from Indian massacre. For his good conduct he
was promoted to a majority.

Several expeditions on a respectable scale were
conducted by Generals Hopkins and Tupper, and
by Colonels Campbell and Russell. By these all
the forts were relieved, and the Indian villages
laid in ashes, by which these relentless enemies
were driven to the distant British trading esta-
blishments for subsistence, and gave security to
the frontier settlers.

Having completed these preliminary operations, General Harrison left fort Winchester at which the principal force was stationed, in order to superintend the equipment and march of the volunteers destined to replace those whose services had expired, and for the purpose of bringing the forces destined in the spring to operate against the enemy at Detroit. General Winchester was left in command of about 1000 men chiefly volunteers from Kentucky, and consisting of young men of ardent and generous feeling. It was not long after the departure of General Harrison, before the arrival of a deputation from the village of Frenchtown, situated on the river Raisin between the Miami and Detroit, soliciting the protection of their countrymen, from the Indians who had threatened to destroy them, and to prevent if possible, the occupation of their village by the combined forces of the enemy as was contemplated. The General, at the earnest solicitations of the volunteers, was prevailed upon to consent to their marching to the relief of the unfortunate people. Col. Lewis, at the head of about 500 men, the greater part of Kentucky volunteers, with two companies of regulars, reached the river Raisin on the 19th of January, 1813, and finding

preliminary operations, at Fort Winchester at which was stationed, in order to direct and march of the volunteers those whose services were required for the purpose of bringing the army to operate against General Winchester was 1000 men chiefly volunteers consisting of young men of ardent feeling. It was not until General Harrison, being informed of the situation from the village of Fort Winchester on the river Raisin between the British and the Indians soliciting the protection of the Indians who had fled from their village, and to prevent if possible the destruction of their village by the British as was contemplated by the British. The earnest solicitations prevailed upon to consent to the relief of the unfortunate British at the head of about 500 Kentucky volunteers, regulars, reached the river in January, 1813, and finding

the enemy strongly picketed, boldly crossed the river on the ice, and after a warm action, drove them in every direction. Being master of the ground, he encamped within a line of pickets which would contribute to render his position defensible, in case of an attack by a larger body.

General Harrison about this time, arriving at Fort Winchester with some reinforcements, was much chagrined to find this deviation from his plan of operation. To remedy this false step as far as lay in his power, he despatched General Winchester to take the command at the head of an additional force of 200 men. This increased the main body to seven hundred and fifty. The additional force encamped on the outside of the pickets before mentioned. At day light on the 22d, this force was suddenly attacked by 2000 British and Indians: those on the outside of the pickets, were soon overpowered by numbers, and were all either killed or fell into the hands of the ruthless savages. General Winchester and Colonel Lewis, who happened to be with this body, were made prisoners about the same time. Those within the pickets, about 500 in number, continued the resistance until near eleven o'clock, having repeatedly repelled the assailants in the attempt upon

the stockade. Finding that their arms could make no impression on this band of heroes, the enemy resorted to the arts of persuasion; a flag was sent, promises of protection were held forth; they expressly agreed to preserve to the officers their side arms; to all this were added the entreaties of General Winchester, who feared that these brave men would all be sacrificed to the fury of the savage enemy. They were at last prevailed upon to lay down their arms.

The historian would gladly cast the veil of oblivion over the scenes which now ensued. The savages soon commenced their deeds of horror; the dead were deprived of their clothing; many of the wounded tomahawked and robbed; the living were exposed to every species of insult and torture. The conduct of the British commander, Gen. Proctor, has stamped his name with infamy that will last to remotest ages. Many of the prisoners were carried away by the Indians, some of them were burnt with horrible torments, and others retained in slavery to be afterwards carried about like beasts, and sold in the streets of Detroit. The most tragical part of this shocking affair, was the burning upwards of 60 of the unhappy wounded, who had been left in the

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houses of the inhabitants; these houses were left without any guard of British regulars, and the day after the battle, a party of Indians returned and sat fire to them. The fate of Captain Hart, an accomplished young gentleman of Kentucky, was peculiarly distressing. Col. Elliot, of the British army, who had been his classmate at Princeton, voluntarily tendered him his protection, and promised to return with the means of conveyance to a place of safety where his wound might be attended to. This he never did. Capt. Hart prevailed on two Indians for a sum of money to take him to Detroit; they had proceeded with him but a short distance, when with the cruelty and sickleness of savages, they pulled him from his horse, and wreaked their vengeance upon their defenceless prisoner. Oh! Britain what a heart couldst thou have possessed, to permit a fellowship in thy wars with such bloody fiends! Two hundred of the dead were suffered to lie on the ground; no funeral rites were permitted to be paid them. Humanity must ever weep over this melancholy picture.

Among the slain, or barbarously murdered, were Colonel Allen, Captains Hickman, Simpson,

(a member of Congress,) Mead, Edwards, Price, McCracken, and many other of the choicest sons of Kentucky.

CHAPTER VII.

*Meeting of Congress — Proposed Armistice—
Capture of the Java—Operations on the Lakes
—Siege of Fort Meigs.*

SHORTLY after the commencement of the war, a proposition for a cessation of hostilities, was made by the Governor of Canada, information having reached him of the repeal of the Orders in Council. This proposition being vague and informal, was at once rejected. It was followed by one more specific on the part of Admiral Warren, who came to take command of the station; he demanded as a preliminary to every other step, that the United States should throw down their arms, as having been the aggressors. This insolent demand was instantly refused. In fact we had no confidence in the momentary repeal of the orders in council; nothing but a repeal of the wicked temper of the enemy could give us secu-

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VII.

*Proposed Armistice—
Negotiations on the Lakes*

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urity. To prove, however, to the world, that we were not behind our enemy in a wish to put an end to the horrors of war, the American Charge d'Affaires in London, was instructed to make formal proposals for settling all disputes on fair terms, and in the mean time, to agree to an armistice pending the negotiation. They were not received.

On the meeting of the Congress, the aspect of affairs was such as to call for the most active and vigorous preparations for carrying on the war. A loan was authorized; an additional number of troops were to be enlisted; and all the necessary provisions for a serious conflict were made. The President called upon the National Legislature to meet the coming storm with firmness, becoming the representatives of a free and magnanimous people.

Captain Chauncey, of the navy, was sent to Lake Ontario to organize a naval force. So rapid were his operations, that before winter set in, he had gained the ascendancy on the Lake, had captured a British vessel, and driven their fleet to take shelter in the harbor of Kingston.

While Congress was engaged in these affairs, news arrived of a third victory obtained over a

British frigate. On the 29th of December, at two o'clock, P. M., the Constitution, Captain Bainbridge fell in with and captured the British frigate Java, of 50 guns, and upwards of 400 men, commanded by Captain Lambert, a distinguished officer. The action lasted about one hour and an half, during which time the enemy was completely demasted, and their commander mortally wounded. On board were General Hislop, destined to the command of Bombay, together with several other officers of distinction. The prize could not be brought in, having been reduced to a perfect wreck. The victor reached Boston in February and received the same honors as were usually paid to our naval commanders.

The rejoicings for this happy occurrence were not a little damped by intelligence of the critical situation of General Harrison. This officer, finding his force much weakened by the loss of numbers as well as of the aid and council of so many able officers and intelligent men, deemed it prudent to entrench himself near the Miami. He constructed hastily a stockade, which he called fort Meigs, in honor of the active and patriotic Governor of Ohio, who had exerted himself in

9th of December, at Constitution, Captain captured the British and upwards of 400 in Lambert, a distinction lasted about one which time the enemy and their commander were General His of Bombay, together of distinction. fight in, having been

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happy occurrence were vigence of the critical on. This officer, find- ened by the loss of aid and council of so diligent men, deemed it near the Miami. He trade, which he called e active and patriotic and exerted himself in

the most laudable manner to further the preparations on foot. His rude fortifications were still incomplete when the enemy, consisting of a combined force of British and Indians under General Proctor, made its appearance. The fort was manned with about a thousand men, chiefly volunteers, was closely invested by more than double the number. A fire was mutually kept up each day for some time, when a messenger informed the American commander of the approach of 1200 men under General Clay. A well planned sortie in conjunction with the reinforcement was resolved upon. Colonel Dudley descending the Miami at the head of a detachment in pursuance of the preconcerted plan, suddenly landed on the left bank of the river, assailed the British batteries, and completely drove them from the field; unfortunately, however, the impetuosity of his troops could not be checked; they persisted in pursuing the enemy until they reached a wood, where they were suddenly surrounded and the greater part cut to pieces or made prisoners. The Colonel, who had endeavored to make good his retreat to the boats, was slain in the struggle. On the opposite side, the sortie on the British works was completely successful. Col. Miller,

of the gallant 4th, who was chosen for this purpose, drove the besiegers from all their works. On that side also, the ungovernable headlong daring of the Kentuckians, was near being ruinous to them; they were only saved by a vigorous charge of the horse which covered their retreat. Among the distinguished officers of the day, we find the names of Major Alexander, Captains Croghan, Bradford, Nearing, Sabrie, and Lieutenants Campbell and Gwyn.

This put an end to the siege of Fort Meigs. During the siege which lasted thirteen days, the Americans lost 89 killed, and 150 wounded, besides those who fell a sacrifice to the fury of the savages under Dudley. Had the enemy been successful, the most disastrous consequences would have followed. The whole frontier was thus placed in a state of security, from the murderous incursions of the savages.

chosen for this purpose from all their works. Governable headlong was near being ruined, saved by a vigorous covering of their retreat. Officers of the day, we Alexander, Captains Sabrie, and Lieutenant of Fort Meigs. In thirteen days, the had 150 wounded, hence to the fury of the had the enemy been serious consequences whole frontier was security, from the murders.

CHAPTER VIII.

Capture of the Peacock—Other Naval Affairs.

THE naval incidents of the second year of the war, with one or two exceptions, were of the same brilliant character as the first. The opening of this year was signalized by the capture of the Peacock, by the Hornet, Captain Lawrence. This vessel had been left by Commodore Bainbridge shortly before his capture of the Java, to blockade the Bonno Citoyenne, a British vessel then in the port of St. Salvador. On the 24th of January, the Montague 74, hove in sight, on which the Hornet was compelled to raise the siege.

The Hornet by this occurrence, was compelled to strike out a new course. On the 23d of February, she discovered an English brig lying at anchor near the Carabona banks: Captain Lawrence stood for her, but while in the act of beating round for the purpose of coming up, another vessel of war was espied making towards the Hornet. This proved to be a large man of war brig, the Peacock, Captain Peak. It was not long before they were both engaged. In fifteen

minutes the Peacock could with difficulty be kept from sinking, she hung out signals of distress at the same moment that she hauled down her flag. The generous Lawrence immediately despatched his boats to assist in saving the vanquished crew every possible effort was made, but in despite of all they could do she went to the bottom, carrying down three American seamen, and five of her own. The officers and crew having been deprived of their clothes, were supplied by the Americans who shared with them like brothers. The injury of the Hornet was very slight.

The British, mortified beyond measure at the repeated defeats which they had experienced, found it necessary seriously to devise some mode of retrieving their credit. Several frigates were fitted out in the best possible manner, with picked crews. Marksmen in imitation as they pretended of the Americans, were stationed in the tops, and the artillerists were trained with peculiar attention. The numbers of the crews were increased for the purpose of boarding; in fine nothing was left undone that might enable them to cope with the formidable American.

Captain Lawrence returned in April, and after experiencing every mark of honor, which his

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mand of the Chesapeake at Boston, the unfortu-
nate vessel which had, before the war, received
so great an insult from the British. The Shannon
and Tenedos were at this time cruising off the
harbor, and sending challenges to the American
commanders of frigates. Lawrence unfortunately
never received any of them, and was not aware
that he had to contend with an enemy specially
prepared; but perceiving a British vessel casting
defiance as it were in his teeth by parading in
full view of him, he burned to sally forth and try
the fortune of his arms. The Chesapeake was
undergoing some repairs, the greater part of her
crew had been discharged, new hands were to
be enlisted, and many of the most important
equipments to be made. His impatience hurried
every thing forward: no moment was to be lost.
On the 1st of June he moved out, and the Shan-
non, Captain Broke, espying him, manifested no
wish to avoid the contest. Lawrence harangued
his crew, when to his inexpressible mortification,
he found them sullen and mutinous; he endea-
vored to conciliate them and arouse within their
breasts a spirit worthy of the occasion. But in
vain as became too soon evident. After some

manœuvring they came to close quarters, and at first the advantage was evidently in favor of the Chesapeake; the fortune of the day soon began to turn, in consequence of the great destruction among the American officers. Sailing-master White was killed; Lieutenant Ballard, mortally wounded; Lieutenant Brown, of the marines, severely; as also the first Lieutenant Ludlow. Captain Lawrence, although severely wounded, still remained on deck giving his orders with coolness as he leaned upon the companion-way. He was giving orders for the boarders to come up, when he received a ball in his body on which he was carried below, exclaiming to his companions as they carried him off, "*Don't give up the Ship,*" which words have become the motto of American seamen. Captain Broke finding that his vessel had received great injury, and was then almost in a sinking condition, determined to board. The Chesapeake having been disabled in rigging, she had fallen, to use the seaman's phrase, on board the Shannon. The British commander leaped on deck at the head of about 20 men, and was soon followed by a sufficient number of his crew to accomplish the object in view. A short but desperate struggle ensued.

close quarters, and ultimately in favor of the day soon began the great destruction. Sailing-master Ballard, mortally wounded, of the marines, Lieutenant Ludlow, severely wounded, giving his orders with the companions for the boarders to a ball in his body on, exclaiming to him off, "*Don't give* have become the Captain Broke received great injury, and in a sinking condition, determined to use the sea- Shannon. The British deck at the head of followed by a sufficient struggle ensued.

The loss of officers on the part of the Americans, and the dastardly conduct of the boatswain, who had skulked instead of calling up the boarders, gave the decided advantage to the enemy. The action in a short time terminated in the capture of the Chesapeake. Nearly all the officers on board this ill-fated ship, were either killed or wounded. On the part of the enemy there were 23 killed and 56 wounded. The conduct of the British was not so conspicuous for magnanimity to the vanquished, as would have been wished, with the exception of the honorable interment of the naval heroes Lawrence and Ludlow, on their arrival at Halifax.

The rejoicings in England for this victory, were scarcely more extravagant than those of Nelson, and of their most distinguished Admirals. The capture of one American frigate appeared to them a greater exploit, than the capture of a French or Spanish fleet. For a time the tide of fortune seemed to be in favor of Britain. The *Argus*, early in June, after having carried out the American minister to France, went to cruise in the British channel, where she committed so much havoc that the British government found it necessary to fit out ships on purpose to encounter

this dangerous enemy. By one of these, (the Pelican,) she was discovered at night by a ship on fire. Captain Allen fell at the first fire, and his Lieutenant soon after. The wheel being unfortunately shot away she was exposed to raking. In this situation she withstood the enemy's fire some time, but was at last compelled to surrender after forty-seven minutes close fighting. This was the last victory fairly obtained by Britain.

Early in July, letters were received from Commodore Porter, who it seems had sailed round Cape Horn, for the purpose of cutting up the English trade and destroy the fisheries in the South seas. In this he met with astonishing success: he captured nine of the enemy's ships, the greater part of which were armed, and distributing some of his men on board these ships, he made out to form a respectable fleet, with which he soon became master of the Pacific ocean.

In the Atlantic, victory once more returned to the side of justice. On the first of September, the brig Enterprize, Captain Burrows, fell in with the Boxer, Captain Blythe. The action lasted but little more than thirty minutes, when the Englishman was so roughly handled that he cried for quarter, as they were unable to haul down the

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colors, having used the precaution to make sure
of their courage, by nailing it to the mast. Both
the commanders were killed. Captain Burrows
refused to be carried below, and when the sword
of his adversary was presented to him, he press-
ed it to his breast and exclaimed, "I die con-
tented."

Commodore Rogers, on the 25th of Septem-
ber, arrived after a cruise of great length, having
looked at every country on the Atlantic, and cir-
cumnavigated the British islands, without mole-
station from the thousand ships of Great Britain.
Off the American coast he captured a small ves-
sel, the Highflyer, with Admiral Warren's private
signals, by which he was enabled to escape the
British cruisers.

CHAPTER IX.

Russian Mediation—Brilliant events of the War.

WAR entails upon every nation many evils and
many sufferings; although it is one of the condi-
tions of life, there is none who does not prefer
the smiles of peace to the flickering brand of

discord. It was therefore not without gladness, that we hailed the first rays which promised once more a day of sunshine. The overtures for an armistice reciprocally made had entirely failed, when the emperor of Russia interposed his good offices as mediator, desirous of bringing about an amicable adjustment of differences. President Madison immediately accepted the proposition, and immediately appointed Messrs. Gallatin, Bayard, together with Mr. Adams, the commissioners for the occasion. The two former embarked as soon as possible for Europe.

The campaign of 1813, the second year of the war, opened with several brilliant affairs, which served to raise the character of our soldiery. Commodore Chauncey was master of Lake Ontario, and Sir James Yoo was careful not to show himself out of Kingston until the vessels then building would give him the superiority. The commander in chief, General Dearborne, was therefore at liberty to cross the Canada side with his troops, in the pursuit of any plan of operation he might adopt. Pike, who had been appointed to the rank of a Brigadier, full of the most ardent desire of distinction, panted for an opportunity of taking the field. An attack upon York was re-

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solved upon; the plan and execution was resigned to Pike. This place, the capital of upper Canada, contained vast quantities of military and naval stores, and moreover, a large vessel almost ready for launching, which would give the command of the lake to the British.

On the 25th of April, 2000 men were embarked on board the American squadron, and appeared before York. No time was lost in effecting a landing at the ruins of the old fort of Toronto, about two miles above the town. This was effected under a severe fire from the enemy, who had been apprised and were drawn up at the water's edge. Forsythe, with his riflemen, led the van, but receiving a galling fire as he neared the shore he ordered his boatsmen to rest upon their oars, in order to give his marksmen an opportunity of returning the compliment. This being observed by Pike, who was anxiously watching every movement, he leaped into the boat prepared for himself and staff, and ordered the detachment of major King to follow him. He made good his landing, and placing himself at the head of the troops first formed, gallantly charged upon the enemy, and drove them before him. A few moments after, reinforcements arriving, he moved

forward, drove the enemy from a battery which they had constructed, and then pushed on to another, when the sound of Forsyth's bugles announced victory on his part. As he approached the last battery, it was precipitately abandoned by the enemy. Here the column halted within 300 yards of the enemy's barracks. While calmly engaged in conversation with a British sergeant, a dreadful explosion took place. It was the magazine in which there had been an immense quantity of gunpowder. Masses of stone and timber fell in the midst of the Americans, producing dreadful havoc; upwards of 200 were at once killed and wounded. Unsubdued by the horrors of this infernal contrivance, and this scene of desolation, their ranks were instantly closed, and they rent the air with three loud huzzas, while the animating tune of Yankee Doodle cheered even the dying, and caused the wounded to forget their pain. The chivalrous leader, however was here doomed to terminate his short but glorious career: he received a mortal contusion, but still retaining enough of life to give words to his gallant spirit, he thus addressed his troops, "*Move on my brave fellows, and revenge your General.*" He was then carried on board one of the vessels; the scenes of

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HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 67.

life were rapidly receding from his view, and his sight growing every moment more dim, when he was somewhat roused by the victorious shouts of his men. A moment after, the British flag was brought to him; this for a moment kindled up his fading eye, and requesting that the trophy might be placed under his head he expired.

The American troops headed by Col. Pearce, took possession of all the British works, and were on full march to York, when they were met by a deputation who offered to surrender. It was agreed that the place with all public property, and the troops should be surrendered to the Americans. While the articles of capitulation were under discussion, the British were actually engaged in destroying all the public property, while an opportunity was given to General Sheaffe to escape with a considerable portion of his regulars. About three o'clock, possession was taken of the town. Pike, in his General orders, had forbidden any of his men to violate private property, on pain of death. The order was strictly obeyed, although there existed cause of much exasperation. In the State-House, a singular trophy was found over the Speaker's mace; it was no other than a human scalp! On such a fact

no commentary is necessary. After this, how could any regard to the laws of honorable war, be expected from Great Britain? After this insult to all civilization and humanity!

General Dearborn, did not assume the command, until after possession was taken of the place. Having taken measures for securing the captured stores, and the prisoners who amounted to about 800, he ordered the place to be evacuated, and soon after re-embarked his troops. Essential service was rendered by Commodore Chauncey, in covering the landing and in annoying the enemy's batteries. The American loss in killed and wounded, amounted to 269, that of the British to 930 men, including prisoners.

On the return to Sackett's Harbour, preparations were made for the attack on Fort George, and the British strong-holds on the Niagara, which had been vainly attempted the year before. All things being made ready, the army embarked on board the fleet, and on the 23d of May, sailed on the contemplated enterprise. The landing took place on the 27th of the same month. Commodore Chauncey placed his vessels in the best position for annoying the batteries and forts of the enemy, while the transports for crossing the

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invading army passed the river. General Dear-
borne, at this time in very ill-health, issued his
orders from his bed, and the immediate direction
of the attack, was entrusted to General Lewis,
the next in command. Generals Chandler, Win-
der, and Boyd, with their respective brigades,
advanced to the shore with unshaken firmness
under a heavy fire. The advance under Cols.
Scott and Forsyth, having effected a landing, and
being assisted by the fire from the ships, soon
cleared the batteries. But the British throwing
themselves into a ravine, completely arrested for
a time, the progress of the Americans. After a
warm engagement, they were at last compelled
to retire, and the whole line of fortifications was
abandoned. As soon as sufficient force was
formed, they advanced to the assault of Fort
George, which they found hastily abandoned with
the flag still flying, which was torn down by Col.
Scott and Major Hindman. The retreating ene-
my was pursued some distance by Captain Riddle
and some other active officers. Upwards of 500
Canadian militia, surrendered their arms, and
were permitted to depart on parole: 108 of the
regulars were killed, and 276 wounded and taken
prisoners. The loss on our side was 39 killed,

and 111 wounded. The next day, Fort Erie and all the remaining British fortifications were blown up.

The British collecting their forces, amounted to 1300 men, retreated towards the head of the lake, at the upper end of the Burlington Bay. If closely pursued, they must inevitably fall into the hands of the Americans, and thus would be terminated the contests along the North Western frontier. On the 1st of June, Generals Chandler and Winder, were despatched with nearly double the force, to effect the all-important object. This force advanced to Stony creek, where they encamped, in expectation of being able to overtake the enemy next day. These finding no hope of escaping but through a night attack, about one o'clock the same night rushed suddenly upon the main guard, and raising a dreadful shout, ran towards the main body of the Americans, who were lying on their arms, and being roused by this, the 25th regiment was instantly formed and gave the enemy the first fire. But the darkness of the night, and the clouds of smoke rendering it impossible to distinguish objects, some confusion ensued. A number of the British became intermixed with the American artillerists, and the two

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American Generals, while endeavoring to ascertain the cause, were taken prisoners. At day-break the American army were found entire, but the enemy had retreated in great disorder, their spirits completely broken by this unexpected reception, and now giving up all for lost. Unfortunately for us, no officer was left to command, whose station was such as to warrant the responsibility of pursuing the vanquished enemy. Col. Brun, on a consultation with his officers, resolved on a retreat, which was effected, and the British under general Vincent, soon after receiving reinforcements, were enabled to maintain their ground.

The absence of Commodore Chauncey, and the American forces from Sacket's Harbour, had well nigh given an opportunity to the British of retaliating the recapture of York. Towards the latter end of May, the British squadron, with about 1200 men, suddenly appeared before the harbour. The alarm was instantly given, and the regulars and militia posted in the neighborhood hastened to the aid of those left to defend the place, which did not amount to one half the number of the assailants. The command was assumed by general Brown of the militia. The

militia under colonel Mills posted to oppose their landing, after one fire, fled in the most shameful manner, in spite of the efforts of their commander. A more efficient resistance was made by the regulars under Colonel Baccus, and Major Lavelle and Aspinwall, but who were compelled to retreat. In the mean time, General Brown having rallied the militia, fell on the enemy's rear, and compelled them to fly with precipitation, and were utterly discomfited. The American loss was 150 in killed and wounded; that of the British, at least double that number. Sir George Provost, the Governor of Canada, retired, leaving his laurels behind him. Had this attack proved successful, the loss of the United States would have been immense, as this place was the store-house of all military supplies, both for the naval and land service. A considerable quantity of public stores were unfortunately destroyed by our own officers under a belief that the enemy had obtained possession of the place.

In the midst of these occurrences, which in general wore so brilliant an appearance, we experienced a severe reverse. General Lewis, who assumed the command after the resignation of General Dearborne, finding himself infested

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by several large detachments of the enemy in the neighborhood of Fort George, where he had fixed his head quarters, ordered Col. Boerstler to march with about 500 men and disperse one of these at a place called La Louvre house. The Colonel had not proceeded half way, when he was assailed in front and rear by the British and Indians, and was compelled for some time to contend against very superior numbers. He was at last induced to surrender his whole force, greatly to the chagrin of the Americans at being thus thrown away to no purpose. But for this affair, the opening of the campaign in this quarter would have been regarded as far transcending our warmest expectations of success.

About this time the Six Nations declared war against the British, with a formal proclamation, and entered into an alliance with the United States, stipulating, however, to denounce their barbarous usages in battle, which they faithfully kept.

We now turn our attention for a moment to the Westward, and the operations along the frontier of the Ohio. In that quarter, a most glorious victory crowned our arms early in the month of August. Until that time, fort Meigs had remain-

ed unmolested, while the Americans waited for the result of the naval war on Lake Erie, before the adoption of any ulterior movement. Proctor, desirous of embarrassing the preparations of Harrison, and of opening the frontier to the inroads of his allies the savages, giving them an opportunity of murdering the sleeping babe and helpless female, determined to destroy the different forts which covered the settlements. Fort Stephenson, on the Sandusky, was the first selected. To cover his real intention, he sent Tecumseh to make a push on fort Meigs, while he appeared before St. Stephenson, and demanded it to surrender. The officer commanding it, was a youth of twenty-one years of age, Major Croghan, who had already distinguished himself at the siege of fort Meigs. He had received orders to abandon this place on the approach of the enemy, but taking all responsibility upon himself, he boldly set the threats of the ungenerous enemy at defiance. The fort was surrounded with pickets and a ditch about six feet wide. The assailants, consisting of regulars and Indians, to the number of 800, commenced the attack with several pieces of artillery, with which they attempted to make a breach. But those

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within, secured the point at which the artillery
was directed, by placing bags of sand and even
of flour. They now resolved to attempt the place
by storm. Colonel Short, with a column of 350
men, taking advantage of the smoke, presented
himself at the point before mentioned, and crying
out to his men to follow him, and to give the
d—d Yankees no quarters, landed in the ditch
with nearly half of his men. His progress was
sooner arrested than he could have expected.
The Americans, who were chiefly young volun-
teers, had carefully concealed a six pounder, the
only one which they possessed in the bastion,
which protected that part of the ditch; the match
was put to it, and being loaded with slugs and
musket balls, instantly cut the savage assailants
to pieces; not one escaped the fatal place. The
rolling musketry at the same time, produced great
havoc among those who were still on the outside.
The assailants fled, pursued by indescribable
terror, while the Indians followed without daring
to cast a glance behind. During the night, irre-
gular firing was kept up, while the humane and
generous Americans did every thing in their
power to relieve the wounded in the ditch. The
next morning the enemy disappeared in haste,

leaving behind a considerable quantity of public stores. The loss of the British exceeded 200 men, while the Americans had only a few wounded, and that while engaged in offering relief to the sufferers.

Croghan and his brave comrades, Captain Hunter, Lieutenants Johnson, Baylor, Meeks, and Anthony, were hailed with the plaudits of their country. The first received the brevet rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the regular service. The Indians, after this defeat, were so disgusted with their allies, that they were about to abandon them. The frontier was completely protected from further molestation.

CHAPTER X.

Capture of the British Squadron on Lake Erie— Defeat of Proctor.

COMMODORE PERRY, whose name now adorns the page of our history, was entrusted, at the commencement of the spring, with the important task of creating a force to oppose the British,

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who since the surrender of Hull, had rode tri-
umphant on Erie. The trees that grew on its
shores were commanded to descend upon the
waves, and bear our sailors to meet the haughty
foe. By the last of August, a fleet was provided,
consisting of the following vessels—the Law-
rence of 21 guns, Niagara of 20, Caledonian of
3, Ariel of 4, Scorpion and Somers, each of 2,
Tigress, Trippe and Porcupine, each of 1; in all
amounting to 59 guns.

The British fleet, under Commodore Barclay,
consisted of the Detroit, 19 guns; Queen Char-
lotte, 17; Lady Prevost, 13; Hunter, 10; Little
Belt, 3; Chippewa, 1; in all 69 guns. This fleet
was consequently superior in force to that of the
Americans, although on their side there was a
difference in the number of ships.

No sooner was the American Commodore on
the Lake, than he went in pursuit of his antago-
nist, who felt no wish to decline the meeting.
This, however, did not take place until the 12th
of September, near Put-in-bay. The American
squadron at anchor, perceiving the British bear-
ing down upon them, got under way. The Ame-
rican flag ship, the Lawrence, out-sailed the rest
of the squadron, and came to close quarters with

the Queen Charlotte and the Detroit. Against these two vessels the contest was heroically maintained for two hours, until every gun was rendered useless, and nearly all on board either killed or wounded. At this critical moment, the other American vessels which had been kept back were coming up, and the Commodore, with admirable coolness, embarked in his boat with the intention of shifting his flag to the Niagara. This was executed in the midst of a heavy fire. Capt. Elliot immediately seconded his views, and while Perry led up this vessel in a handsome style, volunteered to bring the other vessels into action. The Commodore breaking through the enemy's line, poured out such tremendous broadsides as soon compelled the two largest vessels to strike, and the flag of the Lawrence, which had been hauled down, was again hoisted. The remainder of the American fleet coming up, the action in a few minutes terminated in the capture of the whole British squadron, a thing almost unexampled in naval warfare.

"We have met the enemy," said Commodore Perry, "and they are our ours;" two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop.

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The number of prisoners exceeded that of the captors. Twenty-six Americans were killed, and 96 wounded. Lieutenant Brooks, of the marines, was killed, as also several valuable American officers. The captain and first lieutenant of the Queen Charlotte were killed; Commodore Barclay was severely wounded. The conduct of the victors to the unfortunate was, on this occasion, marked by its usual humanity and generosity.

By this event, the field of glory was laid open to General Harrison, and the brave volunteers of Kentucky and Ohio. The choicest troops of the West were already collected for the purpose of following up the success of Perry, if it should please Providence to award it. The venerable Governor of Kentucky, Samuel Shelby, was at the head of the volunteers of that state, accompanied by the first men of the commonwealth. The troops being taken on board the fleet, were transported to the Canada side, where they found the villages and forts evacuated, Proctor having fled in dismay up the Thames. After leaving General M'Arthur to take command at Detroit, General Harrison, at the head of about 3000 men, commenced a rapid march in pursuit of the fugi-

tive army. In a few days he gained upon them so rapidly as to capture considerable quantities of their stores.

On the 5th of October, it was discovered that near the Moravian towns, within a few miles march, they were drawn up in battle array. Having formed his troops into two lines, consisting of Desha and Trotter's brigades, under General Henry, with the mounted men of Col. Johnson in front, he advanced against the enemy, who were found drawn up between the river and a marsh, with the Indians under Tecumseh, in the thick brushwood of the swamp. It suddenly suggested itself to General Harrison, to make a charge with his mounted men through the British infantry drawn up among the open beach wood. Fortune awarded the most complete success to this suggestion. Johnson suddenly dashed through their ranks, formed in their rear, and was preparing to give them a fire with the deadly rifle, when they surrendered. With the Indians the contest was more obstinate; they at first made some impression upon the American infantry, when Governor Shelby brought up a regiment to their support. The Indians fought desperately as long as the loud and terrible shout of Tecumseh en-

couraging them to persist, could be heard; but already his days were numbered. Col. Johnson led a charge on the Indians at the spot where it was supposed the most obstinate resistance was made. A hundred rifles aimed at him; he was covered with blood and wounds; his horse was about to drop under him, when Tecumseh, with savage ferocity sprung towards him, and was about to level his rifle, when the Colonel lodged a pistol ball in his breast. The daring American was in an instant brought off by his countrymen, and the Indians fled.

General Proctor had in the mean time, made his escape by means of swift horses.

The conduct of the Kentuckians, who had been vilely slandered by Proctor, was magnanimous in the highest degree. They returned not evil for evil, but to the prisoners in their possession, many of whom had participated in the horrid murders of the river Raisin, they were humane and attentive. The immediate consequence of the defeat of the allies, and the death of Tecumseh, was a cessation of hostilities on the part of the savages; they came in and agreed to lay up the hatchet on the side of the United States. The whole of the North Western Territory was

once more in the possession of the Americans, with the exception of Michilimackinac, which was not given up until the close of the war. The volunteers and militia returned to their homes, and General Harrison was at liberty with the troops to co-operate with the forces on the Niagara.

Commodore Chauncey, at this time, was master of Lake Ontario. He had repeatedly attempted to bring his antagonist to action, but in vain. Several running fights, however, took place, in which the British knight displayed great naval skill in making his escape. This shyness was not a little increased by the victory obtained, by Commodore Perry; in fact, after this occurrence, he studiously avoided coming to action, with but a superiority so decided as to leave no doubt of the result.

The nation was in the highest degree delighted with the glorious termination of the Western war. Fortune appeared to smile upon their arms at last. Canada must now be ours. The administration, anxious to gratify the public expectation, lost no time in making the attempt. The General in command was an old and experienced officer of acknowledged abilities; General Wil-

of the Americans, at Plattsburgh, which was the scene of the war. The British were driven to their homes, and were at liberty with the forces on the

this time, was made. It was repeatedly attempted, but in vain. However, no battle ever took place, in which the British displayed great naval

This shyness was not a hindrance to victory obtained, by the British. After this occurrence, the British took no action, with but a few exceptions. There is no doubt of the

highest degree delighted the British of the Western world upon their arms being ours. The admiration of the public exceeded the attempt. The British and experienced politicians; General Wil-

kinson had been ordered from the South, and in the course of the summer had assumed the direction of the military operations on the Niagara; while General Hampton, another officer of experience, took command of the forces at Plattsburgh. The Secretary, General Armstrong, possessed the confidence of the nation for his capacity and the vigorous measures which he seemed to adopt. This officer, in order to be near the field of action, and direct the movements of the army, established his office near the frontier.

The army of General Wilkinson, in the month of October, was transferred to Sacket's Harbor, leaving but a small number of troops on the Niagara, where General Harrison did not arrive until sometime after his departure. The destination of the army was studiously concealed. Such dispositions were made, however, as induced the enemy to believe, that the design was to attack Kingston, while the intention was in reality to descend the river St. Lawrence, and forming a junction with General Hampton, proceed directly to Montreal, thus completely girdling the tree, and mastering all Upper Canada. The season, however, was so far advanced, and this al-

though practicable the first year, had become much more difficult from the time which had been allowed the enemy to discipline their militia, augment their forces, and fortify the river.

It was not long before the 3d of November, that General Wilkinson could get fairly under way, while he began already to experience the severity of the season. The British were anxiously watching his movements. Choosing a dark night, he passed the fortified post called Prescott, but not undiscovered: in his descent he was very much annoyed by their musquetry, and the next morning they were found hanging upon his rear, with all the force that could be collected. Having to cross the Rapids of the river, of about eight miles in length, General Brown was detached with a considerable force to clear the way for the passage of the flotilla. This was not effected without considerable difficulty; General Brown, after a smart skirmish, dispersed the enemy, but it being too late to proceed, the flotilla lay by for the night. In the morning, when about to proceed, a considerable force was discovered in the rear on the Canada side; a halt was therefore commanded, while Gen. Boyd was ordered to face about with his brigade and beat off the ene-

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my. The Americans were drawn up in three columns, commanded by Generals Covington, Swartwout and Coles. After a warm action which lasted an hour, in which the enemy were obliged to give way before the bayonet, they were at length compelled to retreat. The Americans having expended their ammunition, were obliged to make a retrograde movement. A violent storm arose about the same time, which, together with the approach of night, contributed to clear the field of battle. From the place in which it was fought, this has been called the battle of Chrystler's field; on the American side there were about 1600; the force of the British was about the same. The American loss was 339 in killed and wounded; among the former, General Covington, a brave and gallant officer. The enemy's loss is supposed to have been still greater. There is no doubt of their defeat, as they were thenceforth compelled to suffer the Americans to continue their course unmolested. General Wilkinson, on reaching Ogdensburg, had sent orders to General Hampton, to meet him at St. Regis, at which place he had now arrived without finding him. This officer, from the disclosure made to him of the state of General Wilkinson's sup-

plies, and from the distance he would be placed from his magazines, together with the great difficulty of transportation on account of the badness of the roads, had concluded to take upon himself the responsibility of consulting these circumstances. He had therefore attempted to penetrate to the St. Lawrence, in another direction, but without success, and after falling back at a place called the Four-Corners, where he waited the orders of the commander-in-chief, professing still a willingness to co-operate in any plan he might adopt. Thus terminated the mighty invasion of Canada, from which so much was expected. The commanding General threw the blame upon Hampton, and the Secretary of War on both. But the truth is, the season was too far advanced, and the force was not sufficient for the contemplated enterprise. The disappointment to the nation, however tended to bring into discredit the leaders of this campaign, which turned out so barren of glory. The army retired into winter quarters.

This military movement was calculated only on success; no allowance was made for the possibility of a failure. Its bad effects were soon experienced. General Harrison had received

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orders to move down the St. Lawrence and join
the army; the whole Niagara frontier was left un-
protected. Gen. M'Clure, who was left in com-
mand at fort George, finding that the enemy was
approaching in considerable numbers, blew up the
fort and evacuated the Canada side, at the same
time burning the village of Newark, situated near
the fort; an act at the time universally censured
and lamented in the United States, and which the
government took the earliest opportunity to dis-
avow. It seems that the General had received
orders to burn the village, in case it should be
found necessary for defence; misconceiving the
orders, he set fire to the place on his departure.
His conduct was committed to a Court of Inquiry,
who passed a severe censure on it. The British,
not content with this, crossed the river in consid-
erable force, took fort Niagara by surprise, put
the garrison to death, and then laid waste with
fire and sword, the whole frontier from 10 to 15
miles. The flourishing village of Buffalo was
laid in ashes, together with several others. It
was afterwards declared by Sir George Prevost,
that he was satisfied with this *ample measure of
retaliation.*

CHAPTER XI.

War on the Atlantic Sea Coast—Disgraceful conduct of the British.

The first year of the war, found England too busily engaged in the great events of Europe, to think of bending her mind to the contest with America. Excepting a general proclamation of blockade, our Atlantic coast was not molested. In the year 1813, she set about carrying on hostilities in a more serious manner. She had threatened much of burning all the American sea-port towns, and laying waste the country. She thought to intimidate us by these barbarous threats.

In the month of March, the Poictiers made her appearance in the Delaware, and sending out shallops commenced a species of marauding warfare. The property of private citizens was the object of their ambition. By the rules of war, the persons and property of non-combatants are exempted from the devastations of war. Without benefiting the cause for which they fought, the British ruined many of the inhabitants of the country. Admiral Beresford, the commander of

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the squadron, made a demand on the inhabitants of Lewistown for water and provisions, and on being refused, he made an ineffectual attempt to obtain them by compulsion, by bombarding the place. The militia under Col. Davis and Major Hunter, manfully resisted every attack.

From the Delaware they proceeded to the Chesapeake, where their course was marked by the most lawless depredations and conflagrations. The genius of history blushes as she records them. There is not one solitary act of benevolence or magnanimity, to rescue the character of the British officers and seamen from the dark disgrace. Indiscriminate havoc was every where committed. One of their first exploits was plundering and destroying the small village of Frenchtown, a place of mercantile deposit, and transit on Elk river. From Frenchtown they proceeded to Havro de Grace, where they perpetrated the grossest outrages on decency and humanity without the slightest pretext. Every house of this little village was consigned to the flames, and a scene of most disgraceful plunder was acted, in which officers and men were mingled alike; the plunder consisted of household furniture, bed clothes, pans and spoons!—They burnt and de-

stroyed many valuable manufactories, after which they went to the next village church, not to ask forgiveness of their sins but in order to wreak their vengeance on this peaceful dwelling, by defacing it in the most shameful manner. After this they perpetrated the same acts on the two villages of Fredericktown and Georgetown. The unworthy warfare continued until the latter part of June, when their movements indicated an attack upon the town of Norfolk. On the lower part of the bay, the militia on several occasions bravely put the marauders to flight. The Virginians and Marylanders were frequently called out from their houses, and much harassed through the whole season, from the continually shifting scene of the war. The coast is so much intersected with creeks and rivers, that it was impossible for any force to move rapidly from one point to another, to repel this desultory warfare. The great object, being the defence of Norfolk, the troops were kept in the neighborhood of that place, and there was no considerable naval force to protect the waters.

This place was committed to the charge of General Taylor, of the militia of Virginia. No one could be more capable of providing the nu-

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merous minute precautions for executing the plans
 requisite to be adopted. The town of Norfolk
 was happily saved by the valor of the marines,
 and the state of Virginia relieved from a most
 dangerous enemy; for had possession been taken
 of this place, the enemy could have done them
 incalculable mischief. Wherever the enemy met
 steady resistance from the regular troops or
 militia, after this, they retreated precipitately to
 their boats, or returned to their fleet. The chief
 leader in this warfare, so dishonorable to the
 British nation, was Admiral Cockburn, whose
 conduct was on every occasion, that of a fero-
 cious, unfeeling buccanier.

On the 21st of June, the movements incited
 an attack on Craney Island, and on the next day
 they landed upwards of 200 men, for the purpose
 of assailing the batteries on the west end of the
 Island. Shortly after the debarkation of these
 troops; forty-five or fifty boats filled with sailors
 and marines, left the shipping and approached the
 north side of the Island. The naval force of the
 United States, united in the defence of the post.
 The enemy was completely beaten off. His loss
 was not less than 200, besides deserters. Four
 or five barges were sunk. The Centipede, 50

feet long, Admiral Warren's boat, with 24 oars was captured, with 22 prisoners, a brass three pounder, and a number of muskets, pistols and cutlasses. Forty British deserters were brought in, and many others were dispersed through the country. There was not one man lost on the American side during the day.

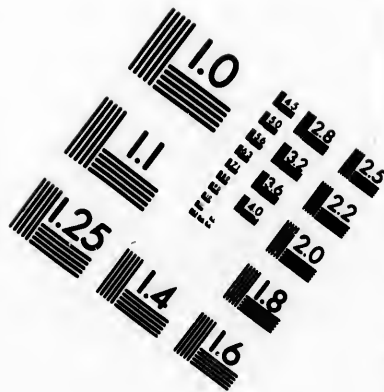
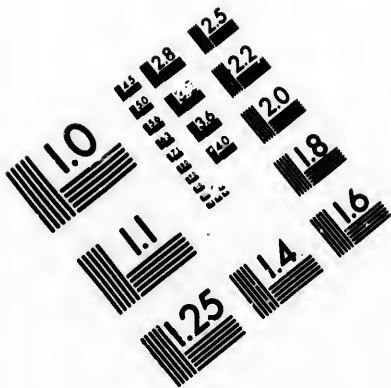
The enemy exasperated at this inglorious attempt, in order to give a loss to his thirst for revenge, resolved to attack the village of Hampton, lower down the bay. On the 25th of June, he landed 2,500 men, and after a gallant resistance on the part of the militia and a few regulars who were there, the town was taken. The scene which ensued, far surpassed any thing before acted by the ferocious enemy with whom we had to contend; such conduct should be held up to universal execration, in order that the condemnation of public opinion may prevent the recurrence of the like among civilized people. The utmost licentiousness was permitted in the treatment of the unfortunate females who fell into the power of the enemy: without regard to their respectability in society, they were seized by ruffians, and several of them actually died in consequence of the shocking treatment they received. A poor

ATE WAR.

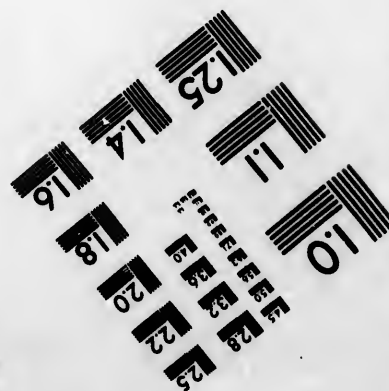
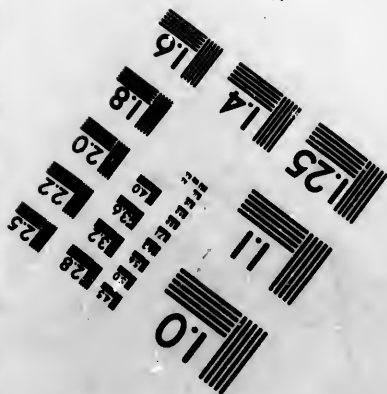
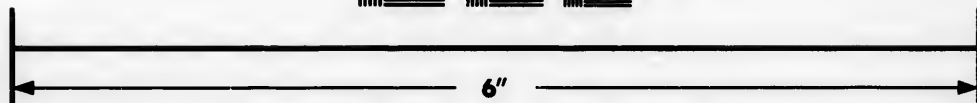
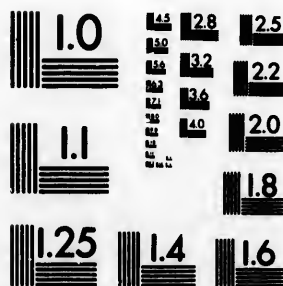
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old man, sick a-bed, was set upon by them and shot in the arms of his aged wife, who was also wounded, and their faithful dog was put to death. The sick in the hospitals were not spared, and every act of savage violence was committed, apparently without any attempt to restrain the perpetrators. A letter on the subject of this infamous conduct, so deeply implicating the character of the British nation, was addressed by General Taylor to Sir Sidney Beckwith, who at first stated that it was in retaliation for the shooting a man at Craney Island, while he hung to a barge that had overset. A Court of Inquiry was immediately instituted, which completely disproved the charge; on this being communicated to Sir Sidney, he sent a verbal reply, that he was sorry for the excesses committed by his troops, but that he would in future prevent the falling into such conduct. A savage chieftain could have alleged the same kind of excuse, for the ungovernable warriors whom he led. The subject underwent an examination before a committee of Congress, who reported upon it in terms as strong as language could express them.

Having thus given an account of what happened on the coast, a war which redounded so

little to the honor of England, we shall pass in review the important war of the South with the Creek Indians, which was closely connected with the hostilities with England. Very soon after the commencement of the war, the Seminole Indians on the borders of Georgia, with a number of runaway negroes began to make incursions, and to infest the frontiers. On the 11th of September, 1812, Captain Williams, of the marines, convoying some wagons, loaded with military supplies, was attacked by a party of these people, and compelled to retreat with the loss of several hundred men, himself receiving a wound of which he afterwards died. Towards the close of the same month, Col. Norman, with about 120 Georgia volunteers, proceeded towards the Latchway towns, with a view of chastising the savages. He was attacked by a large body of Indians, and after a sharp conflict compelled them to fly, leaving their king, Paine, on the ground; after repeated efforts to regain the dead body, they at length succeeded by bringing up additional numbers, after which they moved off. They soon after returned, however, with a still more powerful party; the Georgians apprehending this, had hastily thrown up a breast work, in which they

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were closely besieged. The siege was kept up for some days, until they found it impossible to do any thing, on which they retired, but returned in a little while under the belief from the stillness which reigned in the camp that the Americans had abandoned it. On crowding up to it they were saluted with a volley or two which sent them howling to the woods. After this the Georgians decamped and reached the place from whence they set out after encountering no small degree of fatigue. This affair had a most favorable operation on the minds of the savages, who were thenceforth exceedingly shy of the settlers.

A more serious war broke out in the course of the year 1813, with the Creek nation. The American government had taken great pains to civilize this people, and had spared no expense to effect this humane object. But its endeavors had met with no more than a partial success, for many of the natives obstinately adhered to their Indian manners, and violently opposed the introductions of the acts of civilization. The celebrated Tecumseh had paid them a visit in which he threw among them additional causes of discord. A civil war took place and the savage part of the nation proving the strongest, the rest were

either compelled to fly, or to join those who were for war with the United States. A wonderful degree of superstition and fanaticism were brought into play on the occasion; led to believe by their priests or magicians, they would certainly defeat us by the assistance of their potent charms. The credulous creatures were persuaded by these conjurers, to destroy all their cattle, so that there should be nothing among them that wore the appearance of civilization. They were further stimulated by the British agents, who also gave them some supply of arms, and made them promises of assistance. It was not, however, until towards the close of August that hostilities openly commenced on their part; but this was a commencement of the most shocking kind.

Foresceing the coming storm, the settlers on the Mobile and Alabama had collected in small forts or stations, erected for their security. At one of these called fort Mims, about 300 persons, men, women and children had taken refuge.— It was defended by Major Beasley, of the Mississippi Territory, with about 130 volunteers. A party of 500 Creeks suddenly appeared before this place and attacked it at noonday. Unfortunately the gate happened to be open, and the In-

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dians rushed towards it with a hideous shout. The Major attempted to close the gate, and acted bravely whilst life remained, but he soon fell mortally wounded. The Indians were at length repelled with the exception of a few who had taken the block-house, from which they were after some time dislodged. A second assault was now made which unhappily proved more successful. A breach was made in the pickets, and the savages gained possession of the area of the fort, but not without loss. From the houses or barracks in which the troops had taken shelter, a fight was still kept up for some time, but they succeeded in setting fire to the roofs. Dreadful were the agonizing shrieks of the wretched victims of this infernal tragedy. With the exception of a few privates who made their escape over the pickets, the whole of these unhappy people perished by savage violence, or were consumed by the flames.

This atrocious outrage demanded a prompt retaliation. The Indians having thus wantonly violated the peace which had been for so many years established between them and the whites, the governments of the nearest states, of Georgia and Tennessee, and also the Mississippi territory, without delay concerted measures for carrying

war into the country of the Creeks. To do this effectively, was the only way to ensure safety to the exposed frontiers, and at the same time to prevent the rising of the other southern Indians. There is but little doubt, that all this might have been prevented, if the United States had condescended to employ the Indians in the prevailing war. The infernal policy of the British government in employing and exciting these short sighted people was the cause of the unhappy fate which as a just retribution overtook the Creeks. A series of brilliant victories over this desperate and deluded foe, gained by Generals Floyd of Georgia, Coffee, White and Jackson, of Tennessee, in the course of one season humbled them into the dust.

On the shortest notice, Gen. Jackson brought together a brigade of mounted riflemen and cavalry, and immediately penetrated the Creek country. On the 2nd of November, he detached General Coffee with about 900 men to destroy the Tullushatches town, where a considerable body of Creek warriors had assembled. A party was sent to draw them out, which completely succeeded, and the Creeks suddenly found themselves directly opposed to the whole American

LATE WAR.

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force. They notwithstanding fought with aston-
 ishing desperation, but at last were compelled to
 retreat to their village, where they continued
 their resistance, obstinately refusing quarters un-
 til every one perished. The women and children
 of the village, to the number of eighty, were ta-
 ken prisoners. Coffee had five men killed, and
 41 slightly wounded.

In the morning of the 7th, a friendly Indian
 brought intelligence to Gen. Jackson, that about
 thirty miles below his camp, there was a number
 of Creeks collected at a place called Talledega,
 engaged in besieging some friendly Indians, who
 must inevitably perish unless speedily relieved.

He marched at 12 o'clock the same night, at
 the head of 1200 men, and arrived within six
 miles of the place next evening. At midnight he
 again advanced, and at 7 o'clock was within a
 mile of the enemy. Having approached almost
 unperceived, within 80 yards of the Indians, the
 battle commenced on their part with great fury,
 but being repulsed on all sides, they attempted
 to make their escape, but soon found themselves
 inclosed; but two companies at first giving way,
 a space was left through which a considerable
 number of the enemy escaped, and were pursued

to the mountains with great slaughter. In this action the American loss was 15 killed and 80 wounded. That of the Creeks was little short of 300; their whole force exceeded 1000.

General Cooke, who commanded the other division of Tennessee militia, on the 11th detached Gen. White from fort Armstrong, where he was encamped, against the hostile towns on the Tallapoosa River. After marching the whole night of the 17th, he surprised a town at day-light, containing upwards of 300 warriors, 60 of whom were killed and the rest taken prisoners. Having burnt several of their villages which had been deserted, he returned on the 23d, without losing a single man.

The Georgia militia, under Gen. Floyd, advanced into the Creek country, about the last of the month. Receiving information that great numbers of Indians were collected on the Autossee towns, on the Tallapoosa river, a place they called their beloved ground, and where, according to their prophets, no white man could molest them, Gen. Floyd, placing himself at the head of 900 militia, and 400 friendly Creeks, marched from his encampment on the Cahouachie. On the evening of the 23th, he encamped within ten miles

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the report, no man could molest them,
on the 21st at the head of 900
Creeks, marched from
Catalonchie. On the
22d, he camped within ten miles

of the place, and resuming his march at 1 o'clock,
he reached the towns about six, and commenced
an attack upon both at the same moment. His
troops were met by the Indians with great brave-
ry; and it was not until after a severe battle, that
they were forced by his musketry and bayonets,
to fly to the thickets and coveys in the rear of the
towns. In the course of three hours, the enemy
was completely defeated, and the villages in
flames. Eleven Americans were killed and 50
wounded, among the latter, the General himself;
of the enemy, it is supposed, that besides the
Autossee and Tallassee kings, upwards of 200
were killed.

This just retribution, it was hoped, would bring
these wretched creatures to a proper sense of
their situation; but unfortunately it had not this
effect; they still persisted in their hostilities
against us. In the month of December, General
Claiborne marched a detachment against the
towns of Eccanachaca, on the Alabama river.
On the 22d, he came suddenly upon them, killed
30 of their warriors, and after destroying their
villages, returned with a trifling loss.

After the battle of Tallcdega, General Jackson
was left with but a handful of men, in conse-

quence of the term of the militia having expired. On the 14th of January, he was fortunately reinforced by 800 volunteers from Tennessee, and soon after by several hundred friendly Indians. He was shortly after joined by Gen. Coffee, with a number of officers, his militia having also returned home. On the 17th, with a view of making a diversion in favor of Gen. Floyd, and at the same time to relieve fort Armstrong, which was said to be threatened, he penetrated the Indian country. On the evening of the 21st, believing himself, from appearances, in the vicinity of a large body of Indians, he encamped with great precaution, and placed himself in the best attitude of defence. About day-light he was furiously attacked, and after a severe contest, the Creeks were compelled once more to yield. They fled in every direction.

General Jackson being apprehensive of another attack, fortified his camp for the night; the next day fearing a want of provisions, he found it necessary to retreat, and before night, reached Enotachopo, having passed a dangerous defile without interruption. In the morning, he had to cross a defile still more dangerous, where he might expect an attack; he therefore determined

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g apprehensive of anothe- camp for the night; the of provisions, he found nd before night, reached ased a dangerous defile n the morning, he had to re dangerous, where he he therefore determined

to pass at some other point. The most judicious arrangements having been made for the disposition of his force in case of an attack, he moved forward towards the pass which he had selected. The front guard, with part of the flank columns, together with the wounded, had scarcely crossed the creek when the alarm was given in the river. Jackson immediately gave orders for his right and left columns to wheel on their pivot, and crossing the stream above and below, assail the flanks and rear of the enemy. But to his astonishment and mortification, when the word was for these columns to form, and a few guns were fired, they precipitately gave way. This unaccountable flight had well nigh proved fatal: it drew along with it the greater part of the centre column, leaving not more than 25 men, who being formed by Colonel Carroll, maintained their ground for a time against overwhelming numbers. All that could now be opposed to the enemy, were the few who remained of the rear guard the artillery company, and Capt. Rupel's company of spies. Their conduct, however, was admirable. Lieut. Armstrong, with the utmost coolness and intrepidity, dragged, with the assistance of a few more, the six pounder up the hill,

although exposed to a heavy fire; and having gained his position, loaded the piece with grape, and fired it with such effect, that after a few discharges the enemy were repulsed. The Indians were pursued for several miles by Col. Carrol, Col. Higgins and Captains Elliott and Pinkins. Capt. Gordon of the spies, had partly succeeded in turning their flank, and by this impetuous charge, tended to restore the day. The Americans now continued their march without further molestation. In these different engagements, 20 Americans were killed and 75 wounded; in the last battle 150 of the Creeks were slain.

Gen. Floyd, who was advancing from the Catahouche, was attacked in his camp by a large body of Indians, an hour before day. They stole upon the sentinals, fired upon them, and then rushed with great impetuosity towards the line. The action soon became general: the front of both flanks were closely pressed, but the firmness of the officers and men repelled their assaults at every point. As soon as it became sufficiently light General Floyd strengthened his right wing, and formed his cavalry in the rear; then directed a charge; the enemy were driven before the bayonet, and being pursued by the

THE LATE WAR.

heavy fire; and having led the piece with grape effect, that after a few discharges was repulsed. The Indians advanced several miles by Col. Carroll, Messrs Elliott and Pinkins, and had partly succeeded and by this impetuous march the day. The American march without further engagements, 200 and 75 wounded; in the Creeks were slain.

advancing from the Catawba to his camp by a large body before day. They stole upon them, and then moved towards the line. The general: the front of the line pressed, but the firmness of the men repelled their assaults soon as it became sufficient. Floyd strengthened his cavalry in the rear: the enemy were driven and being pursued by the

HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR. 105

cavalry, many of them were killed. The loss of Gen. Floyd was 17 killed and 132 wounded.— That of the Indians could not be ascertained; 37 of their warriors were left dead on the field, but it was thought their loss was very considerable.

It might be supposed that these repeated defeats might tend to destroy the influence of the fanatical prophets among the unhappy Creeks; but they still persisted in the most unaccountable manner in completing their own ruin. General Jackson having received considerable reinforcements from Tennessee, and being joined by the Indians, set out on an expedition to the Tallapoosa river. He proceeded from the Coosa on the 21st of March, reached the southern extremity of the New Youca on the 27th, at a place called Horse-shoe bend of the Coosa, where the Creeks had selected a strong natural position, and having fortified it, awaited the attack of their enemies. A breastwork had been thrown up across the neck, of considerable strength and compactness. The area thus enclosed by the breastworks, was little short of one hundred acres. The warriors from Oakfuskee, Oakshaya, Hillebeas, the fish Ponds, and Eupata towns, had collected their force at this place, in number exceeding a thousand.

General Jackson finding that his arrangements were now complete, at length yielded to the earnest solicitations of his men to be led on to the charge. The regular troops, led by Col. Williams and Major Montgomery, were in a moment in possession of the nearest part of the breast-works; the militia accompanied them with equal firmness and intrepidity. Having maintained for a few minutes a very obstinate contest, muzzle to muzzle, through the port holes, they succeeded in gaining the opposite side of the works. The event could no longer be doubtful; the enemy although many of them fought with that kind of bravery which desperation inspires, were cut in pieces. The whole margin of the river, which surrounded the peninsula, was strewed with the slain. Five hundred and fifty-seven were found, besides those thrown into the river by their friends, or drowned in attempting to escape. Among the slain was their great prophet Manahoe, and two others of less note. About 300 women and children were taken prisoners. Jackson's loss was 26 white men killed and 107 wounded; 18 Cherokees killed and 36 wounded; and 5 friendly Creeks killed and 11 wounded.

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Creek war. The spirit and power of these mis-
 guided men were completely broken; Jackson
 soon after scoured the countries on the Coosa
 and Tallapoosa; a party of the enemy, on the lat-
 ter river, on his approach, fled to Pensacola.—
 The greater part of the Creeks now came forward
 and threw themselves at the mercy of the victors.
 A detachment from North and South Carolina,
 under the command of Colonel Pearson, scoured
 the country on Alabama, and received the submis-
 sion of a great number of Creek warriors and
 their prophets.

In the course of the summer, a treaty of peace
 was dictated to them by Jackson. They agreed
 to yield a portion of their country as an indemnity
 for the expences of the war; they conceded the
 privilege of opening roads through their country,
 and navigating their rivers; they stipulated to
 hold no intercourse with any British or Spanish
 post or garrison, and to deliver up the property
 they had taken from the whites and friendly Indi-
 ans. The General, on the part of the U. States,
 undertook to guarantee their territory, to restore
 all their prisoners, and in consideration of their
 destitute situation, to furnish them gratuitously
 with the necessaries of life until they could pro-

vido for themselves. They also engaged to establish trading houses, and endeavor to bring back the nation to their former state.

CHAPTER XII.

Naval affairs—War carried on against the Eastern States.

In the course of the year 1813, an American squadron consisting of the United States, Commodore Decatur, the Macedonian, Capt. Jones, and the sloop of war Hornet, Capt. Biddle, was blockaded in the harbour of New-York, by a strong squadron of the enemy. After making several attempts to escape and proceed on a cruize, they ran through the sound, but were immediately pursued, and so closely as to be compelled to run into the harbour of New-London. Here the frigates were towed up the river as far as practicable, and a military force called out to protect them. The frigates were detained in this place during almost the whole of the war.

On the 29th of April, 1814, Captain Warrington, of the United States sloop of war Peacock, fell in with, and captured the British sloop of war

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CHAPTER XII.

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Epervier, rating and mounting eighteen 32 pound carronades, with a crew of 125 men. In the action the Epervier had 11 killed and 15 wounded, among the latter her first lieutenant, severely. On board of the Peacock, not a man was killed, and but two were wounded. The Epervier was almost cut to pieces, while the American vessel, in fifteen minutes after, was fit for action. On board the prize was found upwards of 100,000 dollars in specie, which were taken out, after which she was sent to Savannah under Lieutenant Nicholson, where she arrived safely.

Another victory, no less brilliant followed close after. The sloop of war Wasp, Capt. Blakely, engaged and after an action of 19 minutes, captured the British Sloop Reindeer, of superior force. The Reindeer was desperately fought and the execution on both ships was very great.—Two attempts were made by the enemy to board, with no success. The prize was so much injured that it was found impracticable to bring her in: she was accordingly set on fire and blown up. The Wasp had 5 killed, the other 23 killed and 42 wounded.

The Wasp, after putting into L'Orient to repair, and to dispose of her prisoners, again sailed out on the 27th of August. She had not been long out until a second opportunity occurred of putting her prowess to the test. On the first of September, she fell in with the Avon, and after a short but warm engagement, this vessel was compelled to strike, but when possession was about to be taken of the prize, the Castilian, a brig of

18 guns was descried; preparation was immediately made for action, but the appearance of two other vessels, and the Avon at the same time making signals of distress, the Wasp bore away. The Wasp afterwards captured the Atalanta, a brig of 9 guns. After these numerous exploits, sinking two ships of war, and capturing the enemies property to the amount of at least a million of dollars, the Wasp was for a long time fondly expected home; but alas! her fate is now but too certain; our gallant seamen are covered by the mountain waves of the ocean.

The daring commander, Captain Porter, was master of the Pacific, with his singularly created fleet. The enemies flag was expelled from those waters, and the British whale fishery entirely destroyed. The admiralty was obliged to fit out several vessels, for the express purpose of encountering this formidable enemy. Captain Porter having been a long time at sea, was under the necessity of selecting a landing place, where he could refresh his men by some relaxation from their long and arduous service, and where he could repair his vessels. He landed at an unfrequented island called Nooaheval, inhabited by numerous tribes of the natives. They at first granted him permission, but afterwards became hostile, and compelled him either to quit the island or to give them a signal chastisement. He preferred the latter, and they afterwards treated him with respect; it was also a means of bringing about a general peace among all the tribes. After having completely refitted, he sailed for

preparation was immediately upon the appearance of two vessels at the same time, the Wasp bore away, captured the Atalanta, and these numerous exploits, and capturing the enemy of at least a million for a long time fondly her fate is now but too men are covered by the ocean.

But, Captain Porter, was with his singularly created was expelled from those whale fishery entirely destroyed was obliged to fit out express purpose of enemy. Captain Porter, at sea, was under the landing place, where he by some relaxation from service, and where he

He landed at an unfrequented place, inhabited by natives. They at first but afterwards became inimical either to quit the island or to chastisement. He also afterwards treated as a means of bringing peace among all the tribes. After being refitted, he sailed for

Valparaiso, in company with the Essex Junior. Soon after his arrival, the British frigate Phœbe, Captain Hillyar, carrying 53 guns, in company with the sloop of war Cherub, Captain Tucker, mounting 28 guns, made their appearance. On entering the harbor, the Phœbe fell foul of the Essex in such a manner as to be completely in her power. The British commander affected to be grateful for this forbearance on the part of Captain Porter, and promised to pay the same regard to the neutrality of the port; a promise which he could easily disregard when it no longer suited him to observe. Repeated attempts were made by the American commander to provoke the British frigate to a single combat, without success. At length, finding that they could not out-sail the British vessel, he determined to seize a favorable opportunity of running out to sea. On the 28th of March, he made the experiment, but on rounding the point, a squall carried away his main top mast, in consequence of which, finding it impossible to escape, he attempted to regain the port; failing in this, he put into a small bay, under the guns of a Spanish battery, and let go his anchor. Regardless of the neutrality of the place, the enemy bore down, and the two vessels choosing each a raking position, opened a tremendous fire upon the unfortunate American frigate. Captain Porter long defended himself with unexampled courage. With three long 12 pounders, run out of his stern ports, he twice compelled the enemy to haul off and repair. They afterwards chose a more secure distance. Cap-

tain Porter cut his cable and attempted to board; failing in this, he tried to run his vessel ashore; after trying every expedient which the most consummate nautical skill could suggest, and supported by an unshaken firmness without a parallel, he was at last compelled to surrender his ship. Out of a crew of two hundred and twenty-five, 58 were killed, 65 wounded, and 31 drowned. Thus, after a contest of two hours, a victory was won by the arms of the British which covered them with disgrace.

Captain Porter was allowed to return in the Essex Junior, but was shamefully treated by the Saturn razee off Sandy-Hook. He was obliged to give up his parole, and afterwards effected his escape in an open boat at the distance of thirty miles from land.

In order to wind up our naval history, it will be proper to notice several important affairs, which in order of time, may appear somewhat out of place; this will, however, be counterbalanced by the advantage of a more connected narrative of the remaining events of the war. In Jan. 1815, a squadron in the harbor of New York, consisting of several frigates and ships of war, under the command of Commodore Decatur, was destined by the War Department to make a cruise in the Indian Ocean. The harbor being closely blockaded, the squadron agreed upon a place of rendezvous, and then attempted to sail out singly, and endeavor to elude the enemy. Taking advantage of a dark night, the Commodore's ship (the President) stood out, but unfortunately

and attempted to board; run his vessel ashore; and the result, which the most skill could suggest, and the firmness without a parallel to surrender his own hundred and twenty men, and 31 drowned. In two hours, a victory was achieved which covered

allowed to return in the hands of the enemy, and was afterwards effected his the distance of thirty

naval history, it will be important affairs, which appear somewhat out of the counterbalanced by the connected narrative of the war. In Jun. 1815, of New York, consisted of ships of war, under the command of Decatur, was despatched to make a cruise in the harbor being closely agreed upon a place of rendezvous to sail out singly, and to attack the enemy. Taking advantage of the Commodore's ship, but unfortunately

struck on passing the bar, and was detained for two hours, by which means the return of day brought her in sight of the British squadron; the *Eudymion* was in a short time so near us to come to action. Decatur at first resolved to board this vessel, and if successful to abandon his own ship, which had entirely lost her sailing trim by the unfortunate action first mentioned. He was disappointed in this by the manoeuvres of the enemy; he therefore opened his guns upon her, and it was not long before she lay a complete log in the water. By this time the other ships had come up, and the *President* was compelled to surrender. The *President* lost 25 killed and 60 wounded. Nothing in point of naval renown was lost by America in this affair.

The *Hornet*, Captain Biddle, near the island of Tristan d'Acunha, fell in with, and after an action of 22 minutes, on the 23d of March, 1815, captured his Britannic Majesty's brig *Penguin*, Capt. Dickenson. The captured vessel had 14 killed and 28 wounded. Captain Biddle was wounded in the neck, after the *Penguin* had surrendered, an act which so irritated the crew, that it was with great difficulty it could be restrained from refusing quarters to the enemy. Lieutenant Conner, a brave officer, was severely wounded.

The frigate *Constitution* returned to the United States, after a long cruise, after the cessation of hostilities. On the 20th of February 1815, Capt. Stewart was attacked by two heavy sloops of war. Notwithstanding the advantage which they possessed of being able to take raking positions, un-

less baffled by the utmost exertion of skill; both were captured, and proved to be the ship Cyane, Captain Gordon Falcon, of thirty-four 32 pound carronades, and the brig Levant, Captain Douglass, of eighteen 32 pound carronades, and two long twelves. On board the enemy, the loss was 100 in killed and wounded. The Constitution had 4 men killed and 11 wounded. Capt. Stewart carried his prizes into Port Praya, in March; here the British ships Lennox and the Newcastle appearing, and the Captain apprehending that no regard would be paid to the neutrality of the place, endeavored to make his escape with his prizes. After a long chase he succeeded in getting off the Cyane, but the Levant was compelled to return to port, where she was captured in violation of the laws of nations. This concludes the naval history of the late war; we now turn back our steps in order to resume the regular plan of our narrative.

During the last year of the war, the leniency at first practiced towards the Eastern states, was succeeded by acts of hostility, although not of so lawless a character, yet sufficiently rigorous to make them feel the war.

An opportunity was afforded the inhabitants of convincing the common enemy, that disaffection to the Union was the last thing thought of by the people, whatever sentiments might be privately entertained by a few. Commodore Hardy was gallantly resisted at Stonington, a small village, at which a few militia had been hastily collected. A heavy bombardment was kept up for 48 hours,

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and the British barges that attempted to land,
 were several times compelled to retire. Great
 praise was bestowed in every part of the United
 States, on these brave citizens in defence of their
 town.

In the course of the summer, several impor-
 tant expeditions were undertaken by the enemy
 against the extreme north eastern frontier of the
 United States, where the American force could
 make but a feeble resistance.

Eastport, Castine, Machius, and other villages
 between the Penobscot and the Bay of Passama-
 quoddy, were successively visited without any
 resistance of consequence. The British com-
 mander affected to take possession of all the
 country east of Penobscot, and fortifying East-
 port, established a garrison of 1200 men. The
 exact boundary of this quarter had never been
 perfectly ascertained; it had been doubtful to
 whom several of the islands properly belonged;
 this at the conclusion of the war, gave rise to an
 article of the treaty.

In consequence of the taking of Castine, the
 frigate *John Adams* was unfortunately lost. Cap-
 tain Morris had put into the Penobscot a few
 days before. Having no means of defending his
 ship against a powerful force, he was compelled
 to set her on fire, and blow her up.

CHAPTER XIII.

War on the Northern Frontier—Battle of Chippewa, and Niagara.

AFTER the failure of the last attempt to invade Canada, which had proved so unfortunate to the inhabitants along the Niagara frontier, and which enabled the British to take possession of the American fort, the forces on both sides retired into winter quarters. Nothing of importance took place until the opening of the campaign towards the latter end of March. General Wilkinson, finding that a large body of the enemy had been collected at La Cole, marched a considerable portion of his army, for the purpose of attacking his position. They had fortified a stone mill and erected other defences. An eighteen pounder was attempted to be brought up by the General, but not succeeding in this, a twelve pounder was substituted. After a fair experiment of the strength of the fortress, and repulsing a sortie by the enemy, in which Captains Larabie and M'Pherson were wounded, a retreat took place. The General then took position at Odletown, on the dividing line. The inauspicious opening of the campaign, together with the failure of the last, caused this officer, together with Hampton, to be withdrawn from the Army, and General Izard assumed the command in the place of the one, and General M'Comb of the other.

Early in the spring, General Brown, who had been detached from the main body with about 2000 men, arrived at Niagara. The gallant cou-

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XIII.

War—Battle of Chipewagan.

most attempt to invade so unfortunate to the frontier, and which the possession of the both sides retired thing of importance of the campaign to. General Wilkin-ly of the enemy had marched a considera-ble purpose of attack-ported a stone mill

An eighteen pound-er was brought up by the Gene-ral, a twelve pounder was used in an experiment of the repulsing a sortie by Captains Larabee and a retreat took place. The action at Odletown, on the auspicious opening of the failure of the Army with Hampton, and General in the place of the of the other.

General Brown, who had a main body with about a. The gallant cou-

duct of this officer, on several occasions, had won him a high character, and it was confidently expected that he would soon regain the territory in possession of the enemy. There does not appear to have been any prospect at the commencement of the campaign, of being able to tear any part of Canada from the British; the utmost that could be expected, was to cut off all communication between the Upper and Lower Provinces. The British had availed themselves of the repose of the winter, to construct at an enormous expense, several large vessels for Lakes Champlain and Ontario. Although the United States had not neglected the augmentation of the naval force, they found themselves at the commencement of the season unable to cope with the enemy. Commodore Chauncey was therefore compelled to lie by until the beginning of summer, before he could be in a situation to co-operate with the land forces.

Several smaller affairs, however, occurred to enliven the scene. On the 6th of May, sir Jas. Lucas Yeo, with four ships, and other vessels of considerable force, appeared before Oswego, with a view of intercepting the stores and necessary equipments for the Superior, then building at Sacket's Harbor. The place was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mitchell, with about 300 men, assisted by Capt. Boyle with a party of sailors and the Growler's crew under Lieut. Pearce. They were so warmly received by the Yankees, that their boats were compelled to fall back with all possible precipitation. Not content with this,

they approached the next day with 3000 men, and covered their landing with their ships. These were handsomely peppered as they drew near, and after taking possession of the place with the loss of 200 men, they found to their inexpressible mortification, that the stores had already been removed, except one barrel of whiskey, which they indignantly stove, and suffered to be swallowed by the thirsty earth.

Sometime after this, Captain Woolsey having brought to at the mouth of Oswego creek, with the military stores for Sacket's Harbor, received intelligence from his look-out boats, that a flotilla of British gun vessels had chased them. In concert with Col. Appling, a plan of decoying the enemy, who it appeared, was commanded by Captain Popham, was formed. The look-out boat shewing itself, was closely pursued into the creek. Colonel Appling's riflemen having been concealed in the edge of the bank, suddenly shewed themselves, and discharged a volley upon the British, who immediately surrendered. The whole, amounting to at least 200, were taken prisoners.

It was not until the 3d of July, that General Brown found himself in a situation to carry his plan into execution. On the evening of that day orders were issued for the embarkation of the army which consisted of two brigades, besides the N. York and Pennsylvania volunteers under Gen. Porter. They were suffered to cross the river and land without molestation; the first brigade, under Gen. Scott the artillery commanded

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of July, that General situation to carry his ne evening of that day e embarkation of the wo brigades, besides ania volunteers under suffered to cross the estation; the first bri e artillery commanded

by Major Hindman, landed below fort Erie, while Gen. Ripley, with the second, landed some distance above the fort. The garrison was invested and being almost taken by surprize, surrendered with very little resistance. One hundred and thirty-seven prisoners, were taken. Placing a small garrison in the fort, Gen. Brown moved the following day to Chippewa plains. In approaching this place, Gen. Porter's advance met some light bodies of the enemy, and encountered them in a wood; after beating them, the volunteers pursued, until they found themselves on a sudden in contact with the main body of the British army. They were about to give way, when Gen. Brown ordered Scott's brigade to advance with Towson's artillery, and drew the enemy into the plain. The engagement became general. The left flank of Scott's brigade, was exposed in consequence of the volunteers having fallen back, but Major Jessup, who commanded here, ordered his battalions to carry arms and advance, until choosing a favorable position, he poured a deadly fire upon the enemy, which compelled them to retreat. General Ripley was ordered to move up with his brigade, and turn the right wing; before this could be executed, the British had given ground, and on approaching the declivity of the hill, they broke and fled in disorder behind their works. This action was close and severe; it was fought with great courage and skill on both sides. The Americans had 60 killed and 248 wounded: on the side of the British, their killed amounted to 133, and 320 wounded.

After this sore drubbing the invincibles retired to fort George, abandoning all their intermediate posts, but not without being closely pressed in their retreat. Gen. Brown returned to Queenstown heights, where he soon after found that large reinforcements had reached the enemy from Kingston and Prescott. On this he receded to Chippewa and encamped. On the 25th of July, a strong detachment was discovered on its march towards Schlosser, on the opposite side, which seemed to threaten the American deposit there. In order to counteract this, Scott's brigade and Towson's artillery, marched in the direction of Queenstown.

On approaching the Falls of Niagara, the British army was discovered directly in front occupying a position which had been carefully selected. General Scott immediately despatched a messenger, to the Commander in Chief, and the General hastened without loss of time to the field with his main force. General Scott, and the artillery under Towson were warmly engaged. The 25th under the gallant commander, Major Jessup, moved to the right of the main body, with discretionary orders to be governed by circumstances. Desperate was this contest for several hours; the American ranks were thinned and at every moment diminishing before the vast disparity of numbers opposed to them. They still maintained their ground with undaunted firmness, in expectation of being reinforced by General Brown. Meanwhile, Colonel Jessup taking advantage of the enemy, in leaving his left un-

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guarded, gained their rear, and as the clouds of
 night were fast descending, he penetrated the
 British line and cut off its left wing, making pri-
 soners of Gen. Rial and suit, while Gen. Drum-
 mond narrowly escaped.

Ripley's brigade at length arrived, and in order
 to relieve the troops of Gen. Scott, now almost
 exhausted, they displayed in front. The enemy
 occupied a commanding height, on which was
 planted his artillery, a formidable battery. Ripley
 conceived the bold design of making an attempt
 to carry the height.

They advanced in column to the perilous con-
 test, but faltered on receiving the first fire; they
 were again formed, and advancing with a steady
 and firm step, seized the whole battery. The
 enemy fled in astonishment and dismay, but stung
 with shame, and receiving reinforcements, came
 on with a furious charge, but were driven back
 with great loss, a second and third time, having
 each time received reinforcements. The Ame-
 ricans were left in quiet possession of the field: it
 was now midnight and having been so long enga-
 ged in this dreadful combat, they were ordered to
 retreat; but unfortunately, the trophies of this
 splendid victory could not be secured, from the
 want of the means to convey the artillery, the car-
 riages having been shattered, and the horses kill-
 ed. The total loss of the British amounted to
 860, the loss of the Americans very little short of
 the same number. Generals Brown and Scott
 were both severely wounded, General Porter, of
 the volunteers, gained great honors for himself

and his brave volunteers. Colonel Lavenworth, Major Jessup, and a number of other officers were highly complimented in the orders of the day.

On the 15th of August, after the fort had been for some time invested by General Drummond, with a large force, and after having made his regular approaches, he resolved to attempt to carry it by storm. The assault and defence, were of the same desperate character as the pitched battles before described, and terminated alike to the glory of the American officers and soldiers. By this time the bravery of American troops had made no light impression on these haughty foes.

Gen. Brown having recovered from his wound on the 2d of Sept. resumed the command. From the time of the unsuccessful assault, both sides were actively engaged, the enemy in erecting batteries and other works, the Americans in completing their defences. The enemy's batteries were becoming every day more formidable to the fort, two of which were within 500 yards, and a third was rapidly constructing for the purpose of infiltrating the American works. A spirited measure was thought of by Gen. Brown to avert the impending danger. On the 17th, a sortie was executed in a gallant style, which could only be equalled by the admirable skill displayed in the formation of the plan. The British were completely surprised; the American troops taking a circuitous rout through the woods, came suddenly upon the enemy's flank, and charging in column, took possession of all the enemies batteries, though not without a severe conflict and

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Colonel Lavenworth, and other officers were in the orders of the day. After the fort had been taken, General Drummond, having made his arrangements for the defence, were of the opinion that the pitched battle would be terminated alike to the officers and soldiers. By the arrival of American troops had been discovered from his wound, and he assumed the command. From the successful assault, both sides were engaged in erecting batteries. The Americans in complementing the enemy's batteries were found formidable to the fort, 500 yards, and a third was ordered for the purpose of inflicting. A spirited measure was taken by General Brown to avert the immediate attack, a sortie was executed, which could only be successful by the skill displayed in the attack. The British were compelled to retreat, and American troops taking advantage of the woods, came suddenly upon them, and charging in concert, all the enemies' batteries were destroyed in a severe conflict and

great carnage. The batteries in two hours were destroyed. The Americans had to lament the loss of some brave officers, among whom were Brigadier General Davis, of the volunteers, and Cols. Gibson and Wood, two valuable officers. The Wellingtonian "Invincibles," after this, thought proper to retire, and accordingly Generals Drummond and Wateville, broke up their camp on the night of the 21st, and sought safety in the works of Chippewa. About this time General Izard arrived from Plattsburg, with a reinforcement of 1400 men, and placed the security of the post beyond doubt. Considering that nothing could be gained by maintaining their present position, this General, who now assumed command as the senior officer, removed to the American side, after destroying Fort Erie, and ordered his troops into winter quarters at Buffalo. The names of Brown, Scott, Ripley, Miller, Porter, Davis, Jessup, Ree, Gibson, Wood, Hindman, Towson, Trimble, will be written in letters of gold, on the arch of American glory.

CHAPTER XIV.

Capture of Washington—Defence of Baltimore.

In the beginning of Summer, the enemy arrived off our coast with several ships of the line and frigates with a great number of transports. They soon after entered the Chesapeake, and maintained a threatening attitude against the principal cities on the Bay. Considerable time

however elapsed, before any important enterprize was undertaken; but Admiral Cockburn was actively engaged as usual, in plundering and pillaging the planters. To oppose some check to this atrocious reparee, a flotilla of gun vessels was fitted out by our government, and the command given to Commodore Barney. This intrepid veteran, soon made himself so formidable from his rapid movements through creeks and inlets, that the enemy found it necessary to destroy his flotilla. A number of vessels suited to the purpose, was accordingly provided. The Commodore, about the first of June, was chased into the Patuxent; here their larger vessels not being able to pursue him, they sent their barges, but which were compelled to sneak off faster than they came. A more formidable squadron of boats a few days afterwards, compelled the Commodore to take refuge on Leonard's creek, where he was closely blockaded by two frigates. Commodore Barney having received some additional force, fell down to the mouth of the creek, and choosing his position, began a well directed fire on the British vessels. In two hours the frigates finding their situation rather uncomfortable, prudently weighed anchor and stood down the Patuxent. Barney embraced this opportunity, run out of the creek, and ascended the Patuxent.

Admiral Cockburn, about the 16th of August, ascended the bay with twenty-two sail, besides transports, and was joined by Admiral Malcom. About this time, it appears he formed a resolution of attacking Washington. The circumstance

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of Barney's flotilla having taken shelter in the Patuxent, favored the design of attacking the city by way of Benedict. Accordingly, dividing his force, and sending one detachment up the bay, as if to threaten Baltimore, under sir Peter Parker, and one up the Potomac, under Captain Gordon, as if to force fort Washington, he took the road first named.

The British land forces debarked at Benedict on the 21st of August, and on the 22d reached Upper Marlborough, and the American flotilla, which had ascended as high as this place, was now destroyed, while Commodore Barney, according to his orders, joined General Winder with his marines. At this time, the American General had not more than 2000 men, just collected into camp, at a place called the Woodyard. On the 22d, he fell back to the Old Fields, where he encamped for the night.

The General might expect to be re-inforced in the course of a day or two, by the militia of Baltimore and Annapolis which, with the volunteers of Georgetown and its neighborhood, and the regulars would give him a force of about 5,000 men. As the ground was extremely favorable for skirmishing, and irregular fighting, he might harass the enemy on his advance; for his force was by no means sufficient to meet the enemy in open field. On the 23d, the General detached a party under Colonel Scott, for the purpose of watching the movements of the enemy, and harassing him in his advance. Within six miles of the American camp, the enemy was decried

marching in column; after firing a few rounds, the detachment retreated, and the enemy advancing three miles further, encamped for the night. Apprehensive of a night attack, the General marched about sunset into Washington, and encamped near the navy-yard. Early the next morning, the British were discovered to have taken the road to Bladensburg, having General Winder's force on his left flank.

General Stansbury's brigade, about 1300 strong, arrived at this place on the 22d, and was joined next day by the Baltimoreans under Col. Sterret, about 500 in number, but much fatigued by a forced march; the Colonel was accompanied by the artillery companies of Myers and Magrauder, and the light battalion of riflemen under Pinckney, the Attorney General.

On the 24th, about noon, the enemy made his appearance near Bladensburg. The Americans had already posted themselves in the following manner. Stansbury's brigade, was drawn up on the west side of the Western Branch, the artillery posted so as to command the bridge, the riflemen so as to support the artillery; Sterret's regiment in an orchard in the rear of these, and the other troops in the best position the nature of the ground would admit. Gen. Winder having surveyed this disposition of the troops, which had been made with the assistance of Col. Monroe, approved of them. The General had already posted the marines and seamen on the rising ground in a position to command the road, in two separate batteries, one under Com. Barney the

firing a few rounds, and the enemy advanced camped for the night. In the attack, the General Washington, and entered. Early the next day discovered to have been a trap, having General Smith.

The brigade, about 1300 men, on the 22d, and was composed of Americans and British. The Americans were much fatigued and the British were accompanied by a large number of riflemen under General.

The enemy made his attack. The Americans were driven in the following day, and was drawn up on the right bank, the artillery on the bridge, the riflemen on the shore; Sterret's regiment of these, and the nature of the position.

General Winder having surmounted the troops, which had been ordered by Col. Monroe, the General had already ordered the riflemen on the rising ground to command the road, in two columns. Com. Barney the

other under Capt. Miller. In the rear of these, there was a second line of regulars, volunteers and militia, under General Smith; there was just time to post these, about half a mile in the rear of the first line, when the battle commenced. A strong regiment of Maryland militia, commanded by Colonels Beal and Hood, at the same time took posts on the heights south of the great road among the woods, whence they could annoy the approaching enemy. Until this moment, the heads of department, with the President, were on the ground, it was now deemed prudent to retire.

The enemy, coming in view of the American line, moved in a column to the bridge. The advance under Col. Thornton, received a momentary check from the well served artillery of Myers and Magruder, and from the fire of the riflemen. But rallying his men, the Colonel passed the bridge, and then moved forward, and was soon followed by the main body, under Gen. Ross. The American artillery and riflemen were soon after obliged to retreat, while the enemy continued to advance, not a little annoyed by the artillery of Major Peters. When the enemy's right flank approached within musket range of Stansbury's brigade, this brigade broke: all the efforts of the commander, General Winder, and the other officers could not rally them. They fled in confusion, carrying terror wherever they went. The British now proceeded in column along the road, until they came suddenly and unexpectedly, in view of Commodore Barney, who gave them so warm a reception that they precipitately fell back,

leaving the road strewed with the dead. They deployed, and pushing out flanking parties, endeavored to gain the American rear; on approaching the battery of Captain Miller, they met with a reception as little agreeable as that afforded them by Commodore Barney; they continued, however, to send out flanking parties, until both these gallant corps were in danger of being cut off, when they were ordered to retreat. The Commodore had been severely wounded and fell into the enemy's hands. Stanbury's brigade had been ordered to rally on the second line, commanded by General Smith, but on coming to the road which led to Montgomery Court-house, they had nearly all taken that direction, and others were dispersed. General Winder, now apprehensive that this line would be outflanked, ordered it to retreat intending to make another stand nearer the capitol. General Winder rode to the capitol, and meeting with the President and heads of departments, on consultation agreed that a second attempt, since the flight of the great body of the troops was not practicable. General Smith was therefore ordered to march through the city and take position on the heights of Georgetown.

Meeting with no farther resistance, the British general approached the metropolis with about 1000 men, where he arrived about eight o'clock in the evening, while the remainder of the army encamped within a mile or two of the place. The libraries were burnt, as also were the different offices, whence fortunately the archives of the State had been removed. The loss of the Bri-

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tish was very considerable; it is estimated at 1000, many having deserted.

The enemy retreated to Benedict on the 25th carrying away considerable booty. In the meanwhile, the naval detachment under Captain Gordon, ascended the Potomac, and on the 27th, approached Fort Washington, which was immediately blown up by the officer commanding without firing a gun. The enemy now meeting no opposition passed to Alexandria, which place was put under a heavy contribution. All the produce, merchandise, and shipping, were demanded, and required to be delivered under a threat of destroying the town. With these hard conditions the citizens were obliged to comply, and the British descended the bay with a very respectable amount of plunder.

The third division of the invaders was not so successful. Sir Peter Parker, with a body of sailors and marines, who ascended the Chesapeake, met with a different fortune. Having landed about 200 of his men for the purpose of dispersing a body of Maryland militia, near Georgetown Cross Roads, he was met with a firmness quite unexpected, and after a sharp action he received a mortal wound, on which his detachment fell back to their ships, losing upwards of 30 in killed and wounded.

The British forces in the Chesapeake and its waters, assembled under the commander in chief Admiral Cochrane, and now composed a most formidable armada of more than fifty sail, having on board more than 5000 land troops, under Ge-

neral Ross. On the 10th of September, the anxiously expected enemy appeared at the mouth of the Patapsco, 14 miles below Baltimore. The defence of this flourishing and populous city was assigned to Major General Sam. Smith and Brigadier General Stricker, both revolutionary veterans. The latter at his request, was detached to meet the enemy at his landing near North Point. The General accordingly marched with a part of his brigade, and several additional corps of artillery, cavalry, and riflemen, in the whole about 3000 men. A detachment was ordered to move forward to watch the enemy. On the evening of the 11th, the troops reached their place of destination, seven miles below the city.

Early in the morning, the videttes brought information that the enemy was debarking under cover of his gun-boats; on this the General took position at the junction of the different roads leading from the city, resting his right on Bear-Creek, his left covered by a swamp, and in this situation awaited the enemy. Major Heath, who had been sent forward to skirmish with the enemy, now retired before the advancing columns of General Ross. The General, while reconnoitering at the head of his troops, received a rifle ball in the breast, which put at once an end to his career. The command devolving on Col. Brooks, he moved with the whole force, little short of 7000 men, and commenced the engagement by firing rockets; a brisk cannonade was opened from the artillery of Capt. Montgomery, which was warmly returned by the enemy, and the action soon be-

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came general. The American commander main-
 tained his ground an hour and a half against the
 superior numbers of the British. Unfortunately,
 however, the regiment stationed on the left gave
 way, and his flank became exposed, which com-
 pelled him sooner than if this had not happened,
 to retire upon his reserve, a regiment posted half
 a mile in the rear. This being effected, he took
 up his march and retired to the entrenchments
 thrown up on the rising ground to the east of the
 city, where he was presently joined by Generals
 Winder and Douglass, with a brigade of Virginia
 militia, under Captain Burd's United States dra-
 goons. In this well-fought battle there were not
 more than 1400 men on the American side, their
 numbers having been diminished by the reserve,
 and by the unfortunate panic which seized the
 troops that gave way. The loss on the American
 side was about 180 in killed and wounded; the
 British loss was at least 600.

The brigades under General Stansbury and
 Forman, the seamen and marines under Commo-
 dore Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers, the
 Baltimore marine artillery, manned the entrench-
 ments and heavy batteries. Thus posted, they
 courageously waited the approach of the enemy,
 who had not thought proper to push forward after
 the battle of North Point. Next morning the hos-
 tile army appeared within two miles in front of the
 American lines, inclined to the York and Hart-
 ford Roads, as if to reach the town in that direc-
 tion, but observing that Generals Stricker and
 Winder adapted their movements so as to coun-

teract this design, it approached within a mile, as if to attack in front.

In the midst of these important operations, a powerful attack was made upon Fort M'Henry, which commands the approach to the city by water. The defence of this place was entrusted to Major Armistead, together with several companies of Baltimore artillery, supported by a body of infantry and marines. Two batteries to the right, were manned by sailors, the one under Lieutenant Newcomb, and the other under Lieutenant Webster. The bombarding vessels, placing themselves out of the reach of the guns of the fort, continued throwing shells during the whole day and night, with very little interruption, while those in the fort were compelled to remain entirely inactive. Once indeed, they approached sufficiently near for the guns of the fort to be brought to bear, which soon compelled them to retire. During the night several of their barges were discovered approaching the shore, and were immediately attacked from the batteries to the right, and one of them destroyed.

By this time, on consultation between the land and naval commanders, it was mutually agreed that the capture of the city was impracticable. The retreat of the army was commenced under cover of a dark and tempestuous night. The next morning they had entirely disappeared from before the lines, and were immediately pursued by General Winder, who captured a few stragglers. Colonel Brooks re-embarked his troops in safety.

CHAPTER XV.

Glorious events of the war—British defeated at Plattsburgh—Repulsed at New Orleans—Peace.

WE have already mentioned the departure of General Izard for Plattsburgh, and that General M'Comb was left in command, with little more than 1400 regulars, many of which were invalids. Towards the latter end of August, Sir George Prevost had collected an army of as many thousands, chiefly veteran troops, with a view, as it has since been ascertained, of penetrating to the Hudson. Sir George, about the first of September, past into the American territory, while at the same time, a squadron under Captain Downie entered Lake Champlain.

General M'Comb and Commodore McDonough, were not idle in making every preparation to oppose the most effectual resistance to this most formidable enemy. A body of militia under General Moers; of New-York, and also another from Vermont, under General Strong, added to the strength of the place, while the militia called in from all quarters were daily arriving. The naval commander was equally industrious; as an instance of the wonderful exertion made on this important occasion, he added a brig to his force, before greatly inferior to the enemy's in the short period of twenty days, the timber of which was actually growing on the lake when the vessel was begun. Even boys were armed, and forming themselves into a company, were found efficient on the day of battle. General Moers. Colonel

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Appling, Major Wood, and Captain Sprout, were sent forward at the head of detachments, to meet the advancing foe. It was not till the 10th that Sir George reached Plattsburgh, and took possession of the village, while the Americans retreated behind their defences on the other side the river Saranac, having taken up the planks of the bridges. Here the British remained almost inactive for several days, waiting no doubt for the arrival of his squadron, intending to capture the American ships. Numerous skirmishes, however, occurred daily.

On the 11th, early in the morning, the look-out boats of Commodore M'Donough at last espied the approach of Captain Downie, in order of battle. His line consisted of the frigate *Confiance*, 39 guns; the brig *Linnet*, 16 guns; the sloop *Chub* and *Finch*, 11 guns each; and 13 galleys, five of which carried two, and the others one gun each. The American squadron consisted of the *Saratoga*, 26 guns; the *Eagle* 26 guns; the *Ticonderoga*, 17 guns; the *Preble*, 7 guns, and ten galleys, six of which carried two guns, the others one. It lay moored in a line with the bay of Plattsburgh, having on each flank a division of gun boats. At ten o'clock Captain Downie ranged his ships directly abreast the American line, within 300 yards: the *Confiance* opposite the *Saratoga*, and the *Linnet* the *Eagle*. Dreadful was the thundering battle which now ensued: havoc and death ruled the frightful fray. About ten the *Eagle* changed her position, opposed to a ship of vastly superior force; nearly all the guns of this vessel, upon

Captain Sprout, were detachments, to meet not till the 10th that burgh, and took possible Americans retreat—the other side the riv—up the planks of the remained almost int—ing no doubt for the ending to capture the as skirmishes, how—

morning, the look-out onough at last espied ownie, in order of bat—the frigate Confiance, 3 guns; the sloop Chub and 13 galleys, five of others one gun each. consisted of the Saratoga; the Ticonderoga, s, and ten galleys, six, the others one. It the bay of Plattsburgh, sion of gun boats. At e ranged his ships di—line, within 300 yards: e Saratoga, and the ful was the thundering havoc and death ruled en the Eagle changed ship of vastly superior s of this vessel, upon

whose success hung the fate of the battle, being dismounted, an effort was made to swing her round that her other broadside might be brought to bear. Providence favored the attempt; the same experiment was tried with the Confiance, but without success; on perceiving this, she was compelled to strike. The vessel opposed to the Eagle had already struck, and drifted out of the line. Three of the galleys had gone to the bottom of the lake, the others effected their escape, although heavy laden with disgrace. Thus, after an action of two hours, a second British squadron was obliged to humble itself before the strength of American freedom and justice.

This sublime naval combat, took place in view of both armies: the hearts of all were filled with deep anxiety for the result. On beholding the consummation, the British were struck with horror and grief, while the Americans were elated beyond the expression of words. The Americans had 151 in killed and wounded. Of the enemy 200 were killed and wounded, among the former, Capt. Downie. The number of men engaged, on the American side was 820, on the British 1050, so that the prisoners alone, exceeded the number of the Americans. The Americans had 84 guns, the British 95.

CHAPTER XVI.

Defence of New-Orleans—Brilliant termination of the War.

On the meeting of Congress, the President laid before them the chequered scenes of the past

year. The thanks of this body, together with medals and other rewards were voted to the heroes of the last campaign on Niagara and at Plattsburgh. Very soon after the meeting of the Congress, news from the southward awakened the attention and the anxiety of all Americans.— Intelligence from that quarter left no doubt of an intended invasion of Louisiana. Gen. Jackson so distinguished for his zeal, and for his victories over the Creeks, was appointed a Major-general, and the command of the Southern district assigned to him. In the summer of 1814, he fixed his head-quarters at Mobile, where he assembled a respectable force of regulars, volunteers and militia, the two last from Tennessee chiefly.

On the 15th of September, a squadron of the enemy, consisting of two frigates and two gun brigs, appeared before Fort Bowyer, at Mobile Point, then garrisoned by Major Lawrence with about 120 men. A land force under capt. Woodbine, consisting of about 100 marines and 400 Indians under Col. Nichols, invested the fort by land. The fort withstood this combined attack with the utmost firmness; the land troops were compelled to retire, and the fire was so well directed against the British vessels, that they were compelled to cut their cables and hasten out of the way, but not without the loss of their flag ship which was set on fire and blown up. The loss of the assailants was believed to be very serious, on the American side it was trifling.

The British fleet, after leaving the Chesapeake had gone chiefly to the Bermudas, and every day

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brought accounts of important preparations for some enterprize against the Southern States.— The mighty armament at length made its appearance in the Gulf of Mexico, consisting of sixty sail, attended by a vast number of barges and transports. The foe was invited by the opulence of New-Orleans and its defenceless state; here they anticipated an easy and profitable contest. There remains but little doubt that the British Government intended to hold Louisiana permanently, and by the possession of that important country, render herself mistress of the continent.

General Jackson hastened to New-Orleans with his brave Tennesseans, and his regulars, where he arrived on the 2nd of December. He superintended in person all the works which the time would allow him to construct, and reviewed the different corps of militia and volunteers of the city and country.

On the 12th of December, the enemy's fleet appeared in the bay of St. Louis, and the American flotilla of gun-boats commanded by Lieut. Jones, then lying at Cats Island, ascended the bay to take a position more favorable for watching the enemy's movements. Two days afterwards the gun-boats were attacked by forty launches and barges, manned by at least a thousand men, and after a most heroic resistance, in which many of the enemy were destroyed, the gun-boats surrendered.

The danger was now at hand: Gen. Jackson ordered martial law to be proclaimed, and the whole of the militia was called out on duty. The

Legislature then in session, made appropriations, and an embargo was laid on all vessels then in port. No exertion that could be made was omitted. On the 21st Gen. Carroll arrived from Tennessee with 4000 men, many of them not armed, and others badly. About this time the city received a new accession of force from the arrival of the Britarian pirates. Their leader had received offers from the English which were refused. They offered themselves to Gen. Jackson and were received. For their bravery their chief Lafitte, and themselves received a full pardon.

The capture of the squadron of gun-boats left the way open to attack on the side of the lakes. It was therefore necessary to close all the canals or bayous, which would enable the enemy to pass through the swamp and reach the strip of dry land on the bank of the river. This important duty was entrusted to Gen. Villere, a native of the country, and well acquainted with the secret passages. Unfortunately, the guard stationed at the entrance of the bayou Bien-venu was captured, and proceeding secretly they reached the dry land, and emerged from the forest at the bank of the mighty river, about 3 o'clock P. M. on the 23d of December. This force consisted of four thousand, and instead of moving directly on to the city, halted to prepare their meal, and moved towards the city at their leisure, as it was now, in their estimation, entirely in their power.

Intelligence of this unexpected and alarming march of the British, was communicated to Gen. Jackson by Major Villere, who had been taken

made appropriations, in all vessels then in the harbor. It was made was omitted. Ten-ison arrived from Tennessee, of them not armed, at this time the city received force from the arrival of their leader had refused which were refused to Gen. Jackson for their bravery their chief received a full pardon. A squadron of gun-boats left the side of the lakes, to close all the canals, to enable the enemy to pass through the strip of dry land. This important duty was performed here, a native of the State with the secret password stationed at the rendezvous was captured, they reached the dry forest at the bank of the river at five o'clock P. M. on the 12th. The force consisted of four companies, moving directly on to the mill race, and moved to the mill race, as it was now, in their power. The expected and alarming communication to Gen. Jackson who had been taken

prisoner, but escaped. The General, with his usual promptitude, hesitated not a moment. He issued orders for the troops under the command of Gen. Coffee, stationed some miles up the river, to march to the place of rendezvous, and giving orders for all the other corps to be collected with the utmost speed, he put himself at the head of the regulars, the city militia, and the battalion of colored troops, and advanced a few miles below the city, where he halted to give time for the remainder of his forces to join him. The schooner Caroline was at the same time ordered to drop down the river. Gen. Jackson being joined by the other troops, now pursued his march, but it was some time after dark before he came near the British encampment. Gen. Coffee with his riflemen was placed on the left near the woods, while the other troops led by Jackson in person, attacked in front. The signal was given by a broadside from the Caroline, which did great execution, as the British were gathered round their fires and entirely off their guard. The enemy were at first struck with consternation, but after some time being rallied, they formed and returned the fire of the Americans. A thick fog which about this time arose, and Jackson considering it imprudent to continue the fight any longer, sounded a retreat; a company of city riflemen, however, missing their way, fell in with a body of the enemy and were taken prisoners. The General retired to a piece of ground two miles nearer the city where there formerly had been a mill race; this position offered considerable ad-

vantages in the speedy erection of defences, as it answered all the purposes of a ditch. The loss of the Americans in this bold and well advised attack, was 24 killed, 115 wounded and 74 missing. The British loss was estimated at 46 killed, 167 wounded and 84 missing. This battle saved the city of New Orleans, for had the British advanced the next morning it would have been impossible to have withstood them. Fortunately, all the prisoners who fell into their hands concurred in magnifying the American force to 10 or 15000 men.

In the mean time, a prodigious effort was making to fortify the American position. Bales of cotton were used to expedite the erection of the breast work. In a few days, the line extended a thousand yards to the swamp which was there impassable. A swell in the river, somewhat unusual at this season, enabled them to make an opening in the levee, and to flood the ground in front of the line, and when the water subsided, a sufficient quantity was left in the ditch. On the opposite bank of the river, some works were also constructed, and batteries erected. On the 26th the British directed hot shot at the Caroline, who from her position annoyed them exceedingly.— They succeeded in blowing her up. Two days afterwards, they made a general attack on the American lines with bombs, rockets and artillery, but after a fair experiment, they retired in the evening with considerable loss. On the 1st of January, having during the night erected batteries within a few hundred yards of the American

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works, they made another attack and were com-
pelled once more to retire with the loss of 70
men. The brig Louisiana, had taken the place
of the Caroline, and greatly incommoded them.
On the 4th, Generals Thomas and Adair, arrived
at the head of 2500 militia from Kentucky. On
the 6th, the British were re-inforced by General
Lambert, their whole force under General Pack-
enham, was little short of 10,000 men, and it was
now resolved to force the American lines by main
strength. These were manned by heterogeneous
materials; men of different countries and langua-
ges, and not all armed, particularly the militia
last arrived.

In the night of the 7th the enemy with infinite
labour succeeded in widening and deepening the
the swamp drain by which they had approached
the river, so as to get a sufficient number of their
boats into the Mississippi. During the whole
night, from the movements of the British camp,
it was evident that something unusual was going
forward, and there was every reason to believe
that a general attack had been resolved upon.—
With the appearance of light, these conjectures
were fully confirmed; the whole British force
was seen to advance in columns, with a steady
and determined appearance, many of them carry-
ing ladders and fascines. The utmost silence
pervaded the American lines, while the British
were permitted to approach within the range of
grape, when the artillery opened a most tremen-
dous fire, and as their columns were entirely un-
covered and on a level plain, they were mown

down with prodigious slaughter. They still, however, courageously moved forward, closing up the broken ranks with fresh troops. But when they came within reach of the musket and deadly rifle, the whole American line was one sheet of fire. It was in vain that the British officers endeavored to urge forward their troops to certain slaughter: the bravest of them fell at the head of their columns. They at last shrunk from the contest, in which they saw nothing but universal ruin. The columns broke, and fled in the utmost confusion. A few detachments only could reach the ditch, where they were devoted to sure destruction. A few platoons, led by Col. Renee, reached the ditch and clambered up the rampart; but in an instant not one of them was left alive. The repulse was universal. The astonished Britons stood aghast for a few minutes, when in a fit of phrenzy they made the second effort; but with the same unfortunate result. They were now rolled away from the field, which was left covered with the slain; a most shocking and pitiable scene of carnage. The commander-in-chief, General Packenham, fell almost at the commencement of the action; soon after him, Generals Kean and Gibbs were dangerously wounded, and Genl. Lambert retired from the field with the fragments of the army, the flower of the British forces, accustomed to conquer in the wars of Europe.—Two thousand men fell in this ill fated assault which will be remembered while history lasts.

On the opposite side of the river things were not so brilliant. The British had crossed over

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under Col. Thornton, and marched to the attack of the entrenchments. The militia of the state, with some of the Kentuckians, under General Morgan, after one fire retreated, leaving the bat- teries in the hands of the British. The enemy had been able to outflank them, in consequence of the giving way of a battallion of Louisiana mi- litia. The loss of the Americans on both sides of the river, did not exceed 20 killed and 40 wounded.

The British were now only studious of effect- ing their escape. On the 11th, they were discov- ered to have descended the bayou during the night, leaving a great number of wounded offi- cers and privates. The inhabitants were filled with joy for this providential deliverance, and hailed Jackson as their deliverer. They pour- ed forth their gratitude in public thanksgiving for this signal escape from a foe who would have doomed their city to pillage and destruction. The utmost tenderness and humanity were exhibited by all the inhabitants, to the unfortunate victims of war, who required the assistance of their fellow creatures. Every house was a hospital for the reception of the wounded, and the benevolent sisters, the nuns, were actively engaged in pour- ing oil on their wounds, and in discharging all the offices of christian charity.

In a few days afterwards it was discovered that the enemy had entirely disappeared, and the state of Louisiana, then the latest star in the confede- ration, shone with beauteous lustre.

The British proceeded soon after to attack

Fort Bowyer, and being able to bring an overwhelming force against it, they took possession of the place. Not however to retain it long, as the news of peace soon after caused it to be restored to the Americans.

This event, so welcome to all, at last arrived. It was concluded between the British and American commissioners, on the 24 of December, 1814, and ratified by the Prince Regent on the 23th, and by the President and Senate on the 18th of February, 1815. All parties in the United States heartily rejoiced. America was victorious in the struggle; the enemy had been signally vanquished both by sea and land; and though the change which had occurred in Europe had rendered it unnecessary to insist in the treaty on any provisions against future abuses, the manly resistance of this country had convinced Great Britain, and the whole world, that America was not to be insulted with impunity.

THE END.

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