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CANADIANA.

A COLLECTION OF CANADIAN NOTES.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

VOL. I.

APRIL, 1889.

No. 4.

THE BATTLE OF STONY CREEK.

[6TH JUNE, 1813.]

The story of this remarkable action has been told with more or less fullness by various historians of the War of 1812. Its importance, however, can scarcely be overrated. Indeed, a careful military critic, General John Watts de Peyster, of New York, says in one of his works, that he "regards the encounter of Colonel Sir John Harvey at Stony Creek, on the night of the 5th of June, 1813, as the most decisive engagement of the whole War of 1812-15." That affairs on the Niagara frontier were in a most critical state for Canada at that date, does not admit of a doubt. Our own historians do not attempt to conceal how serious it was and give fairly accurate accounts of affairs, but it would be an amusing task to compare the following documents (copied from the originals), with Lossing's account of this important engagement in his "Field Book of the

War of 1812" (pp 604, 605). It is worth while quoting one part of the account: "Meanwhile," says Lossing, "General Vincent, the British commander, had been thrown from his horse in the darkness, and being unable to find either his animal or his troops, had wandered off in the woods. His friends supposed him to be killed or a prisoner. The command devolved upon Col. Harvey, who finding it impossible to drive the Americans from their position, collected his scattered forces as quickly as possible, and while it was yet dark hastened back towards Burlington Heights with his notable prisoners.

. . . During the ensuing day (that is the 7th), Vincent was found by his friends in the woods, four miles from the place of conflict, without hat or sword, and almost famished. His horse and accoutrements had fallen into the hands of the Americans."

It is unnecessary to comment on such statements. The whole of the account is much of a piece with this specimen. The General who was picked up in the woods on the 7th, and not reported among the missing, had actually written an official report on the 6th, dated at Burlington Heights, to which he had returned in company with his victorious troops; and so far from the command devolving on Harvey by accident, it had in the noblest manner been given to him by Vincent, so that he might have full credit for the plan of operations.

But the documents may be allowed to speak for themselves.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL JOHN VINCENT TO COLONEL BAYNES.

BAIZLEY'S, 4th June, 1813.

DEAR COLONEL:—

I have made no change in my intention since I wrote last. The enemy are advancing, but not so rapid or in

such force as I expected. They have taken post at the 40 mile creek, and I just understand that their strength at that post consists of one hundred dragoons and two thousand men. I have likewise reason to suppose that men will be embarked at the Fort of Niagara to attack me in front on the Lake side, but still if they do not come on me in an overwhelming force, I do not think they will find it an easy matter again to make me quit my post. If I am reduced to the necessity of retiring to Kingston.* I am afraid it will be adding to Brig.-Gen. Proctor's misery in sending him the remaining companies of the 41st, the Newfoundland, and part of the Glengarry, according to the instructions I received this day by Captain McDonell, as I am too much afraid he is at this present moment in great distress for provisions, and unfortunately the Queen Charlotte was only able to take thirty barrels of pork from Point Abino. I am doing everything I possibly can to assist him. Six militia officers, all active and picked men, are sent forward to purchase and drive all the cattle they can find from this to Sandwich. I have been able to procure, to assist this service, from Col. Clark, five hundred guineas which I hope will remove all difficulties with those farmers who will not take paper money.

Captain Milnes will, I suspect, be the bearer of this. I am sorry to part with him, as I find him not only of the greatest service to myself, but as active an officer in the field as any under my command. He is perfectly able to explain our situation and what can be expected from us. I am so hurried with other matters that I have requested Col. Harvey would write you on all the particulars of the post at this present moment, and believe me, dear Colonel,

Yours very obliged,

JOHN VINCENT.

* This sentence does not appear to be finished; it is given as in the original.

TO COLONEL BAYNES, &c., &c., &c.

By a report I have just received from my outposts, an attack cannot be far distant. As circumstances are at present, I am determined if possible to be beforehand with them; I shall therefore detain Capt. Milnes until to-morrow.

J. V.

Canadian Archives, Series C., Vol. 679, p. 19).

LIEUT.-COLONEL HARVEY, D.A.G., TO COLONEL BAYNES.

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS, Sunday, 6th June, 1813.

MY DEAR COLONEL:—

The enemy having dared to pursue, as he arrogantly termed it, this division by moving a corps of 3,500 men with four field pieces and 150 cavalry to Stony Creek (within ten miles of this position), I strongly urged General Vincent to make a forward movement for the purpose of beating up his encampment. In the course of yesterday afternoon, our advanced post at Davis's (eight miles from hence towards Forty Mile Creek), consisting of the light company of the 49th Regt., was driven in. I instantly went out for the purpose of reconnoitring, and found the enemy had again withdrawn to his camp at Stony Creek. I therefore recommended to the General to move the five companies of the King's (say 280)* and the 49th regiment (say 424),* total 700* men, which was accordingly done, at half-past 11 o'clock. General Vincent accompanied these troops, the conduct and direction of which he was so good as to give to me. The troops moved in perfect order and profound silence, the light companies of the 49th and King's in front,

* Different figures were originally written, but corrected in Harvey's own hand, as is evident from the ink, the similarity of the figures to others occurring in the same letter, &c.

the 49th regiment in the centre, and the King's as a reserve. In conformity with directions I had given, the sentries at the outskirts of the enemy's camp were bayoneted in the quietest manner, and the camp immediately stormed. The surprise was tolerably complete, but our troops incautiously advancing and charging across the line of camp fires and a few muskets being fired, notwithstanding my exertions to check it, our line was distinctly seen by the enemy, whose troops in some degree recovered from their panic, and formed upon the surrounding heights, poured a destructive fire of musketry upon us, which we answered on our part by repeated charges, whenever a body of the enemy could be discerned or reached. The King's regiment and part of the 49th charged and carried the four field pieces in very gallant style, and the whole sustained with undaunted firmness the heavy fire which was occasionally poured upon them.

In less than three-quarters of an hour the enemy had completely abandoned his guns and every thing else to us. Our loss has been severe, but that of the enemy much more so. Our trophies, besides the three guns and howitzer (two of the guns, by the bye, were spiked by us and left on the ground for want of means of removing), are two brigadier generals, one field officer, three captains, one lieutenant, and about 100 men, prisoners.

General Vincent, being too much hurried and fatigued to write to-day, has desired me to forward to you with this letter the returns of killed and wounded, as well as those of the prisoners and ordnance, etc., taken. The Brigadier General's dispatch will be forwarded to-morrow. In the meantime, he desires me to congratulate His Excellency on the complete and brilliant success of this enterprise, and on the beneficial results with which it has already been attended. Information has just been received that the enemy has entirely abandoned his camp, burnt his tents, destroyed his provisions, ammunition, etc., and retired precipitately

towards the Forty-mile Creek. Our advanced posts occupy the ground on which his camp stood.

I am, my dear Colonel.

Very faithfully,

J. HARVEY,

Lt.-Col., D.A.G.

P.S.—This is sent by Capt. Milnes, who proceeds with Brigadier Generals Chandler and Winder, and who, from having been present both in the action of this day and that of the 27th ultimo, and all the intermediate operations, is perfectly qualified to give His Excellency every satisfactory information on these subjects.—J. H.

The circumstances in which I write will, I hope, excuse this hasty and inaccurate scrawl, of which, moreover, I have no copy.

(*Archives, Series C, Vol. 679, p. 38.*)

BRIGADIER GENERAL VINCENT TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST.
BURLINGTON HEIGHTS,
Head of Lake Ontario,
6th June, 1813.

SIR,—Having yesterday received information of the enemy having advanced from the Forty-mile Creek with a force consisting of 3500 men, eight or nine field-pieces and 250 cavalry, for the avowed purpose of attacking the division under my command in this position, and having soon afterwards received a report that he had passed the swamp, and driven in my advanced posts from Stony Creek and Brady's, Lieut.-Col. Harvey, D.A.G., immediately went forward with the light companies of the King's and 49th regiments, and having advanced close to and accurately ascertained the enemy's position, sent back to propose to me a

night attack on his camp. The motives which induced Lieut.-Col. Harvey to make, and me to agree to, this proposal were these:—This position, though strong for a large body, is far too extensive for me to hope to make any successful stand against the superior force understood to be advancing against me in three separate points, viz.: by the lake, by the centre road, and by the mountain on my right. The attack, I knew, would not be delayed; I had neither time or inclination precipitately to retreat from my position. I therefore embraced the proposition of Lieut.-Col. Harvey as an alternative not only more worthy of the gallant troops under my command, but as offering the best chance of crippling the enemy and disconcerting all his plans, as well as gaining time for retreat should that measure still be found necessary.

The enemy's camp was distant about seven miles; about half-past 11 I moved forward with the five companies of the 8th King's and the 49th Regt., amounting together to only 704 fire-locks. Lt.-Col. Harvey, who conducted it with great regularity and judgment, gallantly led on the attack. The enemy was completely surprised and driven from his camp, after having repeatedly formed in different bodies, and been as often charged by our brave troops, whose conduct throughout this brilliant enterprize was above all praise. The action terminated before daylight, when three guns, with one brass howitzer, with their tumbrils, two Brig.-Gens. Chandler and Winder, first and second in command, and upwards of 100 officers, non-commissioned officers and privates remained in our hands.

Not conceiving it prudent to expose our small force to the view of the enemy, who, though routed and dispersed was still formidable as to numbers and position, he having fled to the surrounding heights, and having still four or five guns, the troops were put in motion at daybreak and marched back to the cantonments. After we had retired and it had become broad day, the enemy ventured to re-

occupy his camp, only, however, for the purpose of destroying his incumbrances, such as blankets, carriages, provisions, spare arms, ammunition, &c., after which he commenced a precipitate retreat towards the 40 Mile Creek, where he effected a junction with a body of 2000 men on their march from Niagara to reinforce him. I cannot conclude this dispatch without calling your Excellency's attention to the following officers.

To Lt.-Col. Harvey, the Dept. Adj. Genl., my obligations are particularly due; from the first moment the enemy's approach was known, he watched his movements and afforded me the earliest information; to him indeed I am indebted for the suggestion and plan of operations. Nothing could be more clear than his arrangements, nor more completely successful in the result. The conduct of Major Plenderleath, who commanded the 49th Regt., was very conspicuous; by his decision, and prompt efforts the surprise of the enemy's camp was complete, and all his efforts to make a stand were rendered ineffectual by the bayonet, which overthrew all opposition. A party of the 49th, with Major Plenderleath at their head, gallantly charged some of the enemy's field pieces and brought off two six-pounders. Major Ogilvie led on in the most gallant manner the five companies of the King's Regt., and whilst one half of that highly disciplined and distinguished corps supported the 49th Regt., the other part moved to the right and attacked the enemy's left flank, which decided our midnight contest. I have also received the greatest assistance from Major Glegg, Brig. Maj. to the forces, and beg leave to mention the names of Capts. McDouall and Milnes, your Excellency's Aides-de-Camp, who accompanied me in the attack, and upon all occasions have volunteered their services. I have likewise to acknowledge the assistance of Capt. Chambers, of the 41st Regt., who had arrived four days before from Amherstburg, and Mr. Brock, P.M. 49th, who assisted me as acting aide-de-camp.

To Mr. Hackett, acting Staff Surgeon to this army, I feel myself particularly indebted for his judicious arrangement by which the wounded have received every attention, and are, most of them, likely to be restored to the service.

It would be an act of injustice, were I to omit assuring your Excellency, that gallantry and discipline were never more conspicuous than during our late short service, and I feel the greatest satisfaction in assuring you that every officer and individual seemed anxious to rival each other in his efforts to support the honour of His Majesty's arms and to maintain the high character of British troops.

On leaving this position to march against the enemy, it was immediately occupied by Lt.-Col. Bisschopp, with detachments of the 41st Regt., Glengarry and Newfoundland, and militia and the artillery under Major Holcroft, who were in a situation to move towards my support, or to either flank, as circumstances might require.

I directed Capt. Fowler, the Dept. A.Q.M.G., to remain in the rear, with a view of reconnoitring the country, collecting the resources and keeping open the communication.

I am happy to assure your Excellency that had any extreme case happened, I felt the fullest confidence in the zeal and exertions of those officers for making the most judicious arrangements.

I beg leave to refer your Excellency to the enclosed reports for particulars respecting our loss, which I regret to say has been very severe.

I have the honour, &c.,

JOHN VINCENT,
Brig.-Gen.

Archives C, Vol. 679, p. 27.

GENERAL RETURN of Killed, Wounded and Missing in action with the enemy, near the head of Lake Ontario, 6th June, 1813.

TROOPS.	KILLED.			WOUNDED.								MISSING.		
	Lieutenants.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants.	Ensigns.	Adjutant.	Fort Major.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Sergeants.	Rank and File.
Staff .....	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Eighth or King's Regiment....	1	2	7	1	2	2	..	..	..	4	..	51	..	13
49th Regiment....	..	1	12	1	3	..	1	1	..	5	2	62	3	39
Total	1	3	19	2	5	2	1	1	1	9	2	113	3	52

Staff:—Fort Major Taylor, severely.

8th or King's Regiment.	}	Lieut Hooker, killed.
		Major Ogilvie, severely, not dangerously
		Capt. Munday, " " "
		Goldrisk, slightly.
		Lieut. Weyland, "
		Boyd, "

49th Regiment.	}	Major Plenderleath, severely, not dangerously.
		Brevet-Major Clarke, dangerously.
		Dennis, slightly.
		Capt. Manners, "
		Ensign Drury, dangerously.
		Adj. Stean, slightly.

J. HARVEY, D. A. Gen.

EDWD. BAYNES, Adj.-Gen. N. A.

Return of American prisoners of war, captured near Stony
Creek in the action of the 6th June.

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS, 7th June, 1813.

2 Brigadier Generals.
1 Major.
5 Captains.
1 Lieutenant.
116 Non-commissioned officers and privates.

J. HARVEY, *Dep. Adj.-Gen.*

EDWD. BAYNES, *Adj.-Gen. N. A.*

Return of Ordnance, &c., &c., captured from the Americans
by a division of the troops under the command of
Brig.-Gen. Vincent, in action on the 6th June, 1813, at
the head of Lake Ontario:—

Ordnance	{ 6 pounders, iron	3
	{ 5½ in. howitzer, brass.....	1
Carriages	{ Limber 6 pounder.....	1
	{ Tumbril with 6 pounder ammunition complete.....	1
Harness	{ Thill sets.....	4
	{ Trace “	4
	Horses, Artillery.....	9

WM. HOLCROFT, Maj.,

Com'g Royal Artillery.

N.B.—Two of the above 6 pounders were spiked and left
on the ground in consequence of the impossibility of remov-
ing them.

INDIANS IN THE WAR OF 1812.

The following list of the Indian warriors who joined the British cause, is said to be the most correct which has ever been published. It was drawn up in the year 1812, and includes all the tribes who bore arms in the war, or who were friendly to the British, with the exception of the Sioux and Chipewas. The former did not exceed 300 fighting men at the time, although a tribe renowned for bravery; and the latter, who occupied the south and west side of Lake Superior, sent but very few to the war, but were not unfriendly:

CLASS I.—THE WESTERN INDIANS.

The Wyandots, or Hurons.....	450	warriors.
“ Ottawas and Chipewas.....	350	“
“ Miamies	180	“
“ Peons	180	“
“ Shawanous, or Shawanise (this was Tecumseh's tribe)	550	“
“ Shawanous, or Shawanise (west of the Mississippi)	500	“
“ Potawatimies	2000	“
“ Kickapoos and Muskoutans.....	450	“
“ The Ottawas on Grand River, and the other rivers which fall into Lake Michigan.....	550	“
“ Chipewas who reside about Michilimackinac..	400	“
“ Followines of Green Bay.....	500	“
“ Winebagoes.....	700	“
“ Soakies, on the east side of the Mississippi....	750	“
“ Misquakies, or Fox Indians.....	450	“
“ Chipewas and Ottawas of Sagina (Saugeen) Bay, on Lake Huron.....	600	“

These constitute the whole of the fighting men of the two great western nations of Indians as they stood in 1812, amounting in all to 8610 warriors.

This force, estimated by their numbers, would deservedly be held of little consequence if brought against disciplined troops in an open country, but when it is recollected that they occupied a territory of immense extent lying upon the frontier of the United States, and that frontier is formed of a dense forest, and being unfortified was liable to irruptions in a desultory mode of warfare such as the Indians carry on

at all points, it became a matter of consequence for a power at war with the United States to be on good terms with these Indians.

There was a strong antipathy existing between the people of the United States (particularly the backwoodsmen) and the Indians, so that as the settlements of the former advanced, the latter receded from them, and avoided them as much as possible. It was the operation of this feeling which induced the Indians to become the allies of Great Britain during the war, as they thought with the aid of the British arms to be able to drive the Americans (those evil spirits, as they termed them,) out of their grounds.*

CLASS II.—THE INDIANS OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA.

The Mohawks, residing about Lake Erie.....	400	warriors.
“ Mohawks, residing on the Bay of Quinte.....	50	“
“ The Mississakies, about York and on Lake Ontario	150	“
“ Chipewas, about Lake Simcoe.....	70	“
“ Iroquois, of St. Regis (during the war they were divided, and part of them were with the Americans)	250	“
“ Iroquois, of Cohnawaga (<i>sic</i>)	270	“
“ Iroquois, of the Lake of Two Mountains.....	150	“
“ Nipisanges, or Algonquins, at the Lake of Two Mountains	100	“
“ Abenquois, from Lorette.....	100	“
“ Algonquins, who reside about Three Rivers...	50	“

These in all amounting to 1590, added to the 8610 warriors of the western nations, made the whole Indian force up to 10,200 men.

HENRY MOTT.

* This idea operated strongly on Tecumseh's mind. It is said he had formed the plan of uniting all the Indians of the southern districts as far as Florida, and those of the west and the north together, with the design of making an attack on the United States, simultaneously with the British who were to attack them from the coast, while Canada was to press them from the north. This was a plan, however impracticable, which could only be the offspring of a strong and comprehensive mind. The feelings of the Indians towards the soldiers of the United States were manifested in the different engagements in which they acted with the British troops, as frequently, after the battle, the English officers and men had the utmost difficulty in preventing them from scalping the prisoners.

VISIT OF INDIAN CHIEFS TO ENGLAND.

WINDSOR, England, April 9th, 1825.

“The interesting Canadian chiefs, accompanied by Sir John Chapman and Mr. Irving Brock (brother of the late Sir Isaac Brock, who fell in Canada during the last war), proceeded on Thursday by invitation to the Royal Lodge, and were introduced to His Majesty on the lawn. Immediately on seeing the King, they fell on their knees, when the medallion of the late King, with which they had been invested by Sir Isaac Brock, attracted His Majesty’s attention, who [observing to them that as they had the portrait of his late father, perhaps they would have no objection to wearing his,] hung a handsome gold medallion round their necks, which they kissed with the utmost fervour.

The Grand Chief then addressed His Majesty in French, and after replying in the same language, His Majesty conversed with them in the most affable manner for about a quarter of an hour.

After seeing the interior of the Royal Lodge, the stables, the animals, and the birds, Sir Andrew Barnard conducted them to Cumberland Lodge, where a table, provided with refreshments, was prepared for them. In the evening they left Windsor for London, expressing their gratitude at having seen ‘their Great Father, King George,’ and the manner in which they had been received. Besides the medallions hung round their necks, His Majesty presented each of them with a print from his full length portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

It is understood that the business which brought them to this country was to recover possession of some lands that had been taken from them during the American War, and that a promise has been given them that, in case the same lands cannot be restored to them, they are to have a grant of another tract of land.”

HENRY MOTT.

[The subsequent history of these medallions and portraits would be of interest.—ED.]

Queries and Replies.

What was the first monument, of any kind, erected, and the date, or anything marking the spot where Wolfe died on the Plains of Abraham, Quebec?

What are considered the five oldest buildings, irrespective of the old round towers on Sherbrooke street, standing to-day in Montreal, with date of erection?

A man-of-war (the "St. Lawrence," 102 guns) is shown in an engraving on a corner of one of Bouchette's large maps of Lower Canada, 1815. Can any of your readers tell us anything about this vessel?

Where can I find, and what do you consider, the best small engraved or other portrait of Gen. Montcalm? J. H.

THE PLACE D'ARMES.—On 18th August, 1717, Chaussegros de Lery, Engineer-in-Chief of New France, forwarded to France a lengthy report as to the advantages offered by Montreal for the purposes of fortifications. In this report he said:—

"I have marked a Place d'Armes in front of the Parish Church, where might be made afterwards a number of barracks, the houses which are in that place being of small value. The enclosure is marked upon the ground conformably to the plan," etc., etc.

During the same year DeLery commenced the work, but from lack of funds it was discontinued. Up to 1721 no further progress was made, but in that year the work was fairly entered upon, and DeLery superintended it. It may, therefore, be taken for granted that the name *Place d'Armes* was given by DeLery long before the occupation of the town by the American troops. Moreover, it would be very unlikely that Gen. Montgomery would give it the French name. H. M.

Publications Received.

AN ADDRESS delivered before the Historical Society of New Brunswick in the City of St. John, Dominion of Canada, 4th July, 1883, by Gen John Watts de Peyster, LL.D., A.M., Brev. Maj.-Gen., S.N.Y., Honorary Member N.B.H.S. New York: Chas. H. Ludwig, 10 and 12 Reade street. 1883.—I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Lawrence, of St. John, for this pamphlet.

MR. CHARLES N. BELL, F.R.G.S., the President of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, sends the following valuable publications of papers from his pen:—

1. *Henry's Journal*, covering adventures and experiences in the Fur Trade on the Red River, 1799-1801, a paper read before the Society 4th May, 1888, and published as Transaction No. 31; season 1887-8.
2. *The Selkirk Settlement and the Settlers*: A Concise History of the Red River Country from its Discovery, including Information extracted from Original Documents Lately Discovered and Notes Obtained from Selkirk Settlement Colonists. 1887.
3. *Some Red River Settlement History*: A paper read before the Society 29th April, 1887, and being Transaction No. 29; season 1886-7.
4. *Our Northern Waters*: A Report presented to the Winnipeg Board of Trade regarding the Hudson's Bay and Strait, being a Statement of their Resources in Minerals, Fisheries, Timber, Furs, Game, and other products. Also, Notes on the Navigation of these Waters, together with Historical Events and Meteorological and Climatic Data.
5. *The Olden Time*: Winnipeg a Hundred Years Ago The Early History of the Red River.
6. *Old-Time Milling*: The History of Milling in the Red River Valley. (From "North-West Miller.")

The titles alone suffice to indicate the character of these papers and Mr. Bell's name is an assurance of their value.

THE MAGAZINE OF POETRY.—A Quarterly Review; Illustrated. Vol. I., No. 1. January, 1889. Charles Wells Moulton, Buffalo, N.Y. A magazine devoted entirely to poets is a novelty, and when made so attractive as this one, is likely to prove a welcome addition to periodical literature. The Canadians who appear in the first number are Miss Morgan (Gowan Lea) and Prof. Chas. G. D. Roberts. An introductory note to the selections from Miss Morgan's poems by Dr. J. Clark Murray, of Montreal, and a similar introduction to Prof. Roberts by Mr. Bliss Carmen, are of interest. The price of this magazine is \$2 per annum.

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT to the Catalogue of the Library of Parliament, in alphabetical and subject order, containing all books and pamphlets added to the Library from Feb. 10th, 1888, to January 10th, 1889.

THE ORIGIN AND SECRETS OF FREEMASONRY, being a lecture delivered by the Rev. Joseph Wild, D.D., Chaplain Doric Lodge, A.F. & A.M., Toronto, in Toronto, Ont., on Feb. 22nd, 1889. Published by Yeigh & Co., office of the *Canadian Advance*, 10½ Adelaide St. East, Toronto.