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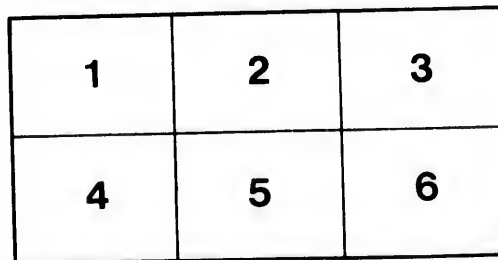
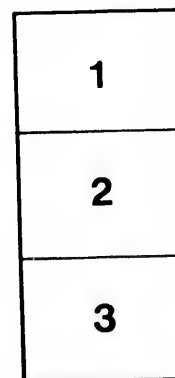
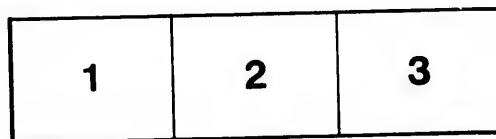
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Battle of Lake Erie.—Page 82.

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Battle of Lake Erie.—Page 82.

THE  
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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.  
BY H. M. BRACKENRIDGE.  
ENLARGED AND CORRECTED.  
PITTSBURGH:  
PUBLISHED BY JOHNSTON & STOCKTON.  
1835.  
G. S. C.

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the Western District of Pennsylvania.

1863

Stereotyped by J. A. James, Cincinnati.

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## PREFACE

### TO THE FIRST EDITION.

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 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.

What volume so favorable to the formation of the youthful patriot, as that which asserts the rights and 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

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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, while they prize them as becomes the posterity of freemen, to emulate, when a similar crisis shall require it, the deeds of their fathers.

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## PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

SHORT is our sight into futurity, and vainly do we calculate the durability of the foundations on which we build! The little round of earth remains, when temples and towers have gone down. "Son of the winged winds where dost thou build the airy hall? The blast of the desert comes—it howls through thy empty courts."

With an ambition lofty, compared to my humble powers, I have sought to build the "airy hall" of fame. Self-love has taught me to think, that fortune and fashion have bestowed more favors to others than to me; and yet the history of this little volume leads me to the conclusion, that public opinion, if not always right, does not always err. Little did I suppose, that a work on which I had bestowed great la-

bor and research, after passing through FIVE EDITIONS, and been translated into foreign languages, should have entirely disappeared from circulation, while the volume the reader now holds in his hand, which was cast like "bread upon the waters," without a name to shew its authorship, should pass through THIRTY EDITIONS, and have established itself permanently in public esteem!

For its singular success it is indebted to itself alone; for I had almost forgotten that I had ever written it, until, by accident, it came in my way. I am only surprised at the correctness of the decision of public opinion; for it is as much superior to the larger work, as the quintessence is to the gross material. It is in fact, the spirit, which still walks and travels, after the body has been placed in the tomb.

After completing my larger history, and while its incidents were all fresh in my mind, I wrote this little book, not as an abridgement, but as a summary, and gave it to a friend, and it was published without my name. I now claim paternity to

TO THE NEW EDITION.

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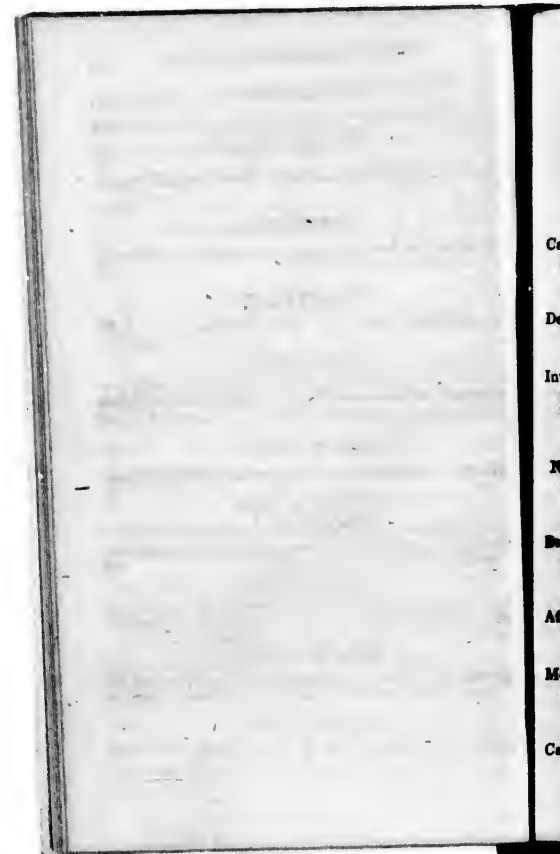
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PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION.

ix

the little wanderer, which, it seems, has  
unassisted, made its way to fortune, and  
found favor with our masters—the *People*  
*of this Republic*. May it be the instrument  
of friendly aid to its parent and elder  
brethren, in "a land of strangers."





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## HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR.

### 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 erroneous policy had in the first instance, given rise to this distempered 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 national pride and 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 impolitic, but unjust. The pains we had taken to keep aloof from the European wars, at last came to be mistaken 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 sentiment, 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 the ordinary means of supplying their coffers, or of recruiting their strength.

ing us in their mad contest, it rough insidious arts, by which are entrapped, or by repeated or twenty-five years, these de- ded with unshaken firmness.— Washington, to keep aloof from contest, was strictly observed. repeatedly exasperated beyond the government opposed itself to ffects of wounded national pride appeared to be a contest between land which could injure us most, how long we could forbear. But at which this forbearance must impolitic, but unjust. The pains o keep aloof from the European me to be mistaken for pusillanim- for a want of energy in the struc- ernment. It became fashionable as a mean and sordid race, inca- enerous sentiment, and exclusive- self-interest, whom no insult, no rovoke to strike. es at first resorted to for the pur- ing us to share their battles, were into the ordinary means of supply- rs, or of 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 became no longer a matter of choice of peace or war, but of our enemy, or whether to contend with both.

From Britian 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 hostile and contemptu- ous. She had called us rebels, she still consid- ered us as successful rebels, whose destitution of principle must cause us, in the end, to fall to- gether by the ears, and thus make room for their expelled sovereign. Little did she know the real spirit of American liberty. The settling 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 conceal- ed hand: she instigated a dreadful Indian war, in which thousands of American citizens were bar-

barously murdered. It will be long before the people of the Western country can forget the defeats of Harmer 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 amity 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 council, which restricted the American commerce, and exposed many of our ships to capture and

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condemnation. Britain not satisfied with these  
 violations of the sacred laws of nations, estab-  
 lished a new rule of blockade: but which she  
 affected to consider as merely retaliatory; this  
 was by placing her enemy's ports in a state of  
 blockade by mere proclamation, and without st-  
 tioning any efficient force. Under these and  
 many other pretexts, the American flag could  
 only be said to float on the ocean at her will and  
 pleasure.

There was another grievance which she prac-  
 ticed 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 after-  
 wards 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 ap-



peared, 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 repeated with greater frequency. 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 thousand American seamen who had been dragged on board the British ships of war, serving

that very little care was taken to avoid the abuses which must result; for this investigation was referred to a petty officer, who was ignorant or incapable of proceeding, and people of every color, and of every rank, were equally liable to be improperly speaking, kidnapped. The outrage, was the constant theme of the part of the American government. Instead of redress we had the more it repeated with greater frequency. Ships on the high seas, were without a sufficient number of men, exposing the lives of the remaining the voyage. Indignities were heaped upon our unfortunate; the certificates of their nationality they had provided themselves, a violation to which no other people exposed, was taken from them, and scattered to the winds. To so had this violation of all human rights, that it was estimated that in there were not less than seven hundred and thirty American seamen who had been dragged from British ships of war, serving

against their will, and consequently in a barbarous 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 frigate, after attacking her in the most unexpected manner, and under circumstances peculiarly mortifying. Finding at last, that war would be the inevitable consequence of this wanton act, they humbled themselves so far as to offer a reparation, 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 exercising 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 sim-

plest 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 preponderating weight of individual interest, over 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 ocean, and lay our flourishing cities in

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suggested itself, was to stay at home. It would be more safe than in stirring up the passions to be assailed by a tyger for his prey. An embargo was proposed for a period of some months, proved to be of great extent of our sea coasts, and of great operating weight of individual property. Riotism, it could not be entirely taken off, and in place of it, we passed forbidding all intercourse with England. By this means, we were enabled to carry on some trade with the West Indies, and the nations round about. We were not long in discovering that the hope from war was inevitable. Our character had sunk abroad, and our commerce at home; and what man could ever prospered, with infamy and dishonour? The American reputation? The American name? To own his country while abroad. The whole nation, the opinion was formed that we must have war. The question of the belligerents should it be continued was the question. We had no complaint against both. The French would drive our little navy 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 open 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 affected to accede, and 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, just 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 with her 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 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 one of the most noted warriors that had appeared. The name

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numerous proffers of the American government to remedy the evils of impressment.

But the only causes of irritation remained to be settled. Besides coming in contact with her on the sea, where she harassed our commerce and kidnapped our fellow-citizens, we were in collision with her on the land. France was materially different from her if we chose, but not so if we withdrew from the sea. She would still harass us in consequence of her naval power. From the influence of the fur trade in the North West, all the Indian nations were at their disposal, notwithstanding the treaties which resided within the limits of the United States. This influence was used to abuse, and in fact was continued to abuse, poor deluded creatures wrought up by artful tales, became inimical to the whites. An Indian chief of uncommon talents acquired the ascendancy over the tribes along the lakes, and particularly of the Ohio. He had been a friend of the whites since the first settlement in the country, and was one of the most powerful 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; and both 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 the acquisition might be to us; 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, the ostensible cause 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 Indiana. With these he proceeded up the Wabash with the intention of building a fort near the Pro-

phet'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 centinels 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. Colonel 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 murdering several families on the frontiers. The war which was about to break forth in this quarter, soon after merged into more important events;

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and which it is the business of the present narrative to detail.

## CHAPTER II.

### 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, President Madison laid before Congress the correspondence 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 Council. Every attempt to arrange the matter of impressment had also failed. In the opinion of the President, there appeared to be no possible measure left for us to pursue, but a Declaration of War.

This being referred to the Committee of Foreign 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 of June, and the next day war was formally claimed.

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

The means provided for carrying on a with one of the most powerful nations globe were extremely slender. Our army exceed 5000 men, and those distributed surface of several thousand miles. A le passed for the purpose of enlarging it to men; but little or no progress had been enlistments. Our navy consisted of a few and smaller vessels of war, not more than in number, while that of the enemy exceed thousand ships. Our great commercial were not yet completely fortified, although some years, considerable pains had been

important appeal was announced on the 18th June, and the next day war was formally proclaimed.

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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 enlistments. Our navy consisted of a few frigates 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 necessary 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 "fire-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 vulnerable part of Great Britain. Whatever intrinsic 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.

### CHAPTER III.

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

an end to those hostilities, and to be in a situation for striking a blow at Canada. It is well known that there were no great preparations on the side of the British, and it was supposed, that by a prompt and vigorous attack on the unprotected provinces, we should have been masters of the whole country from Niagara to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This would effectually cut off all hope of the British from the Indians, and would enable us to concentrate our forces on Lake Ontario, which means, with the aid of the regular army in that quarter, and the militia of New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont, Upper Canada would be ours in the course of a few months, and in a short time we might successfully advance against

## CHAPTER III.

of Canada by General Hull—Battle of Brownsville—Hull evacuates Canada—British occupy the city, and surrender of Hull.

the Governor of the Michigan territory, who had been a distinguished officer during the Revolutionary war, having been appointed a brigadier-general in the service of the United States, was on his way 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.

On the 12th of July, Hull, with the principal part of his forces, crossed the river, and after feeble opposition, took possession of Sandwich. Here he issued a proclamation, in which he stated his force to be sufficient to "look down upon opposition," threatening destruction without mercy to all who should be found fighting by the side of an Indian, and offering protection to the inhabitants who would join his standard. But the proclamation was followed up by no prompt and vigorous measures against the British garrisons which at this time was in no condition to re-

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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 appeared to be gained, with no other view than being 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, and the vast advantages which would necessarily follow; this General was fast losing the confidence of his own troops, by his want of decision, and by his 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 Broke,

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, commenced by throwing light parties of regulars and of 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 now 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, that 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 vain to contend against so great a superiority,

a man of talents, was not long in knowing his adversary he had to deal with, being at first apprehensive that he could not withstand the great superiority of the British force, began to conceive hope of being able to make advantage of the incapacity of the British, commenced by throwing light parties of men and of Indians under the celebrated General Picquet, on the road between the state of New York and Detroit, so as to intercept the American supplies. Hull was now compelled to turn his attention to keeping open the communication, and to the preparation for the siege of Malden, which proceeded at a snail's pace.

It was not until the 1st of August, that two British frigates, four pounders and three howitzers were mounted, and even then, he appeared to know what to do with them. Dangers and difficulties appeared every moment to thicken about 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 surrounded by a body of the enemy, and a large number of the Indians, which to him was the first intimation of hostilities. As it was impossible for him 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 the danger of his situation, which was greatly augmented by his fears, dispatched a messenger for assistance to the Governor of Ohio, and to General 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 the 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 effectually 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 American camp, under captain Bush; but in consequence 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 dispatched under Major Vanhorn, who was attacked near Brownstown, by a superior force of the enemy, and after a severe contest, were obliged to retreat with the loss of 19 killed and wounded; of the former, captains Gilcrease, McCulluch, and Bostler, of the latter, captain Ulry.

On the return of this party, it was deemed an

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urn of this party, it was deemed an

object of serious consequence to make an effort  
to clear the road. While the enemy, well  
knowing that another attempt would soon be  
made, posted a much larger force of regulars  
and Indians at a place called Maguaga, in ad-  
vance of the former scene of action. For this  
service, which had now become of the first im-  
portance, the American general selected the vet-  
eran 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 ambuscade. His advance  
guard under captain Snelling, was suddenly en-  
compassed 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 regu-  
lars, 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 pre-  
cipitately 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 American garrison, in which he magnified his force in regulars and Indians, in the most frightful manner. Hull returned, however, for answer, that the place would be defended to the last extremity.

The next day the enemy were discovered crossing 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 be-

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hind the picketing 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  
this the detachment out on duty, might be expect-  
ed 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 skulk-  
ing Indians, were seen to advance in the direc-  
tion in which they would meet certain destruc-  
tion; 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 com-  
manding 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 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.

#### CHAPTER IV.

Naval Affairs—Capture of the *Guerriere*—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

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ships put to sea in June, and steered 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 during 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 the 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 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 commander began to fear that no foe could be found sufficiently rash to encounter him. On the memorable 19th of September, the *Constitution* hove in sight; with satisfaction the Briton beheld her bearing down, her ensign streaming in the breeze, and backed his topsails to wait her approach. For some time, they tried each other's skill in naval manœuvering; 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 calmly 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,

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and the vessel was on the point of sinking.—  
 "Free trade and sailor's right!" triumphed  
 over the tyrants of the sea.

Great was the disproportion between the kill-  
 ed 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 deportment of the Americans to their pris-  
 eners, 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 22d of  
 September. The news of this glorious affair  
 spread on the wings of the wind. Full indeed,  
 was our recompense for past misfortunes. All  
 the circumstances of this unparalleled combat  
 were of the most pleasing kind. As some re-  
 ward 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 ene-  
 my's ship into port.

From this time to the close of the war, the  
 D\*



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 when he was separated by the approach of night, but in the morning she had disappeared.

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 various 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 consequence of the roughness of the sea. The fire of the American was so remarkable, that the enemy at one moment thought her on fire. Lieutenant Funk and Allen were highly distinguished in this affair: the former unhappily re-

bers were filled with accounts performed both in private and els. Captain Porter, in the manner cut out a brig from a d on board 14,000 dollars in diers. He afterwards captur- ch was in search of the Horn- he point of engaging a frigate arated by the approach of night, g she had disappeared. sailed again in October, and ish frigate Swallow, with 200- ard. The Argus which had part- dron, was also fortunate. She valuable prizes, and after vari- apes, arrived at last in safety at the gallant commodore Decatur, United States, added another lau- ch already graced his brow. On ober he fell in with the Macedo- Carden, a British frigate of the The engagement lasted two hours of the roughness of the sea. The merican was so remarkable, that one moment thought her on fire. nk and Allen were highly distin- affair: the former unhappily re-

ceived 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 announced, 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, Cap. 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 sea prevented the Americans from bringing their guns to bear with their usual effect. The engagement lasted nearly an hour; the vessels gradually nearing each other until the rammer 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 lost upwards of two hundred and fifty merchant 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 acknowledge the superiority of the new enemy, she sought to deceive herself by the idle estimates of the comparative force, and by the invention of fancied mishaps: had we lived in an age of superstition, it would have been attributed to magic.

On the Lakes, those interior seas, whose borders are destined to become the joyful residence of millions of our fellow creatures, there appeared to be an approaching naval struggle. The Caledonia and the brig Adams, loaded with furs, had come down the Lake early in October, and anchored under the guns of the British fort.—Lieut. Elliot of the navy, who had some short time before arrived with a number of our brave tars in order to provide a naval force, early in

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the morning, slipped down with some of his gallant fellows, 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.

Battle of Queenstown—General Smythe assumes com-  
mand—Colonel Pike's incursion.

DURING the summer and autumn, a considera- ble force was collected along the Niagara, con- sisting of regulars and militia, occupying the best position for following up the blow to be struck by Hull. The spirit of the nation had re- covered from the mortifying occurrence already detailed, while the success of our navy had awa- kened in the breast of every American an ar- dent wish to restore the honor of the country. An incident which occurred in this quarter kin- dled 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 Amer- ican 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 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, and also, 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 purposes 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

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march with his artillery, in order to share the  
honors of the day. The British were driven in  
all directions, 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, mor-  
tified at the conduct of his troops, led them a  
second time to the charge; but while in the act  
of urging them on, 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 inferior. For an hour the fight raged with unexampled fury; a few of the Americans attempted to 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 Wardsworth, 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.

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It was a most unfortunate circumstance that  
the Americans failed in their attempt on the  
Canada shore. It became afterwards the glori-  
ous theatre of American valor; but had we ob-  
tained possession, the troops would have been  
well housed for the winter, and the spring cam-  
paign would have opened with results very dif-  
ferent from those which followed.

In the course of this parti-colored day, a can-  
nonade was kept up from the forts and batteries  
on the opposite sides of the water. Considera-  
ble 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. De-  
sirous of contrasting his talents with those of  
his predecessor, he set about making prepara-  
tions for a more successful invasion of the Cana-  
da 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 issu-  
ed a proclamation calling on volunteers from all  
quarters, and on the 17th of November, announ-



ced 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 enterprise.—Two detachments, one under Colonel Winder, and the other under Colonel Børrstler, 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 apprized, 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. Børrstler, 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 intermediate space was occupied by the whole American army, and fled precipitately from 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

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As they got under way in ten roaching the shore, they found zed, and actually opened a fire of their batteries. The greater ding force was compelled to put men carried down by the current exceedingly rapid. Two small one effected a landing, one under the other under Captain King, at from each other; but making a at the same time raising a shout, re induced to believe that the in- ce was occupied by the whole y, and fled precipitately from their all the batteries undefended. The returned to the American side, by produced a suspense in the mind of n 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 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 slight 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 of British and Indians, destroyed a block-house and returned with only five men wounded.

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collected on the St. Lawrence, in expectation of some slight skirmishes, many of being recorded. On the 19th Colonel Pike, a promising and rising soldier, highly esteemed as an enterprising valiant soldier, made an incursion and defeated a body of British and Indians, and returned with many 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.

Indeed; 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 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 Indians 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 coolness 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 establishments 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 servi-

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y completed these preliminary opera- neral Harrison left fort Winchester, at e principal force was stationed, in order ntend the equipment and march of the s destined to replace those whose servi-

ces 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. Colonel 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 18th of 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 Gen. 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

by a larger body. General Winchester, arriving at fort with some reinforcements, was to find this deviation from his plan. To remedy this false step in his power, he despatched General Proctor to take the command at the head of 200 men. This increased force of seven hundred and fifty. The Indians were encamped on the outside of the fort mentioned. At day-light on the morning of the 10th, the fort was suddenly attacked by 2000 Indians: those on the outside of the fort were soon overpowered by numbers, and either killed or fell into the hands of the savages. General Winchester, with a few men, who happened to be within the pickets, about 500 in all, made prisoners about the same time. The resistance until near sunset was unavailing; having repeatedly repelled the assaults, the enemy resorted to the use of arms could make no impression upon the stockade. Finding that the enemy resorted to persuasion; a flag was sent, promising that the lives of the prisoners were held forth; they expressed their willingness to reserve 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 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 set 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 rendered 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 fickleness 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, M'Cracken, and many other of the choicest sons of Kentucky.

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## 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 cessation of hostilities, was  
made y 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 sta-  
tion; 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 security. 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 in-  
structed 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 a half, during which time the enemy was completely demasted, and their commander mortally wounded. On board were General

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of the Congress, the aspect as to call for the most active preparations for carrying on the war as authorized; an additional force were to be enlisted; and all provisions for a serious conflict. The President called upon the Navy to meet the coming storm with the representatives of a free people.

Decatur, of the navy, was sent to organize a naval force. So operations, that before winter set in the ascendancy on the Lake, a British vessel, and driven their cutter in the harbor of Kingston. Decatur was engaged in these affairs, and a third victory obtained over a British vessel. On the 29th of December, at 10 P. M., the Constitution, Captain Decatur, in with and captured the British vessel, which was armed with 50 guns, and upwards of 400 men. The action lasted about one hour, during which time the enemy was completely dismantled, and their commander killed. 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 uniformly 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 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, which 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. Mille. 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, Sebrie, and Lieutenants Campbell and Gwyn.

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This put an end to the siege of Fort Meigs. During the siege which lasted thirteen days, the Americans lost 80 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.

#### 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 Bonne 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 officer 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 pretend-

ed 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 country could bestow, was appointed to the command of the Chesapeake at Boston, the unfortunate 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 sail-



ed out, and the Shannon, 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 endeavored to conciliate them and to arouse within their breasts a spirit worthy of the occasion. But in vain, as became too soon evident. After some manœuvering 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 in a sinking condition, determined to board. The Chesapeake

Shannon, Captain Broke, espying no wish to avoid the contest. He urged his crew, when to his exhortation, he found them sullen and endeavored to conciliate them and their breasts a spirit worthy of But in vain, as became too soon some manœuvring they came, and at first the advantage was for of the Chesapeake; the fortune began to turn, in consequence of destruction among the American. The master White was killed; Lieutenant mortally wounded; Lieutenant marines, severely; as also the t Ludlow. Captain Lawrence, severely wounded, still remained on orders with coolness as he leaned on his arm. He was giving orders to come up, when he received a wound on which he was carried below, his companions as they carried him *give up the Ship*, which words were the motto of American seamen. Finding that his vessel had received injury, and was then in a sinking condition, he ordered the crew to be ordered to board. The Chesapeake

having been disabled in her rigging, 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.

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, "built in the Moon's Eclipse, and rigged with curses dark," 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 they had been for those of Nelson, and of their most distinguished Admirals. The conquest 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 cruize 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 means of a ship in flames. Captain Allen fell at the first fire, and his Lieutenant soon after. The wheel being unfortunately shot away, she was exposed to a raking fire. In this situation she withstood the enemy's broadsides 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 to 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,

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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 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 pressed it to his breast and exclaimed, "I die contented."

Commodore Rogers, on the 25th of September, arrived after a cruise of great length, having looked at every country on the Atlantic, and circumnavigated the British islands, without molestation from the thousand ships of Great Britain. Off the American coast he captured a small vessel, 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 conditions of life, there is no one who reasons wisely, 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 without delay appointed Messrs. Gallatin and 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 Yoe was careful not to shew himself out of Kingston until the

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vessels then building would give him the supe-  
riority. 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 Briga-  
dier, full of the most ardent desire of distinction,  
panted for an opportunity of taking the field.  
An attack upon York was resolved 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 em-  
barked on board the American squadron, and  
appeared before York. No time was lost in ef-  
fecting 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 apprized and were drawn up at  
the water's edge. Forsyth, with his riflemen,  
led the van, but receiving a galling fire as he  
neared the shore he ordered his boatmen to rest  
upon their oars, in order to give his marksmen  
an opportunity of returning the compliment.

This being observed by Piko, 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

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dying, and caused the wounded to forget their  
 pain. The chivalrous leader however, was here  
 doomed to terminate his short but glorious ca-  
 reer: he received a mortal contusion, but still re-  
 taining 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 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 request-  
 ing 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 capit-  
 ulation 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.

General Dearborne, 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 Sacket's Harbor, 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 ves-

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sels in the best position for annoying the batte- ries and forts of the enemy, while the trans- ports for crossing the inv. Jing army passed the river. General Dearborne, at this time in very ill-health, issued his orders from his bed, and the immediate direction of the attack was en- trusted to General Lewis, the next in command. Generala Chandler, Winder and Boyd, with their respective brigades, advanced to the shore with unshaken firmness under a heavy fire. The advance under Cols. Scott and For- sythe, having effected a landing, and being assisted by the fire from the ships, soon cleared the batteries. But the British throwing them- selves 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 retreat- ing enemy was pursued some distance by Cap- tain Riddle and some other active officers. Up- wards 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, amounting 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; the 25th Regiment, under the command of Col. Smith, had lain on their arms, and being roused by the noise, 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 ob-

rs were killed, and 276 wounded. The loss on our side and 111 wounded. The next day all the remaining British were blown up.

Collecting their forces, amounting to about 1000 men, they retreated towards the head of the harbor at the Burlington Bay. They must inevitably fall into the hands of the Americans, and thus would end the contests along the North shore. On the 1st of June, General Winder, was despatched to double the force, to effect the attack. This force advanced to Stony Point, where they encamped, in expectation of overtaking the enemy next day. They had no hope of escaping but through the woods, about one o'clock the same night they rushed upon the main guard, and raised a shout, ran towards the main body of the Americans; the 25th Regiment, under the command of Col. Smith, had lain on their arms, and being roused by the noise, instantly gave the enemy the first fire. But in the darkness of the night, and the clouds of smoke, it was impossible to distinguish ob-

jects, some confusion ensued. A number of the British became intermixed with the American artillerymen, and the two American Generals, while endeavoring to ascertain the cause, were taken prisoners. At day-break the American army was 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 Harbor, 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 harbor. 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 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

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of these occurrences, which in brilliant an appearance, we ex- perience reverse. General Lewis, command after the resignation

of General Dearborne, finding himself infested 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 Loutre 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 renounce their barbarous usages in battle, a promise 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

remained 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 fort 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 within, secured the point at which the

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artillery was directed, by placing bags of sand  
and even of flour. They now resolved to at-  
tempt 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 quar-  
ters, landing 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 volunteers, 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 mus-  
quetry 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 dar-  
ing to cast a glance behind. During the night,  
irregular 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, Lieutenant 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.

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#### 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, who since the surrender of Hull, had rode triumphant 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. In consequence of exertions almost un-

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paralleled in the history of naval preparations, before the last of August a fleet was provided, consisting of the following vessels—the Lawrence 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 Charlotte, 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 antagonist, who manifested 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 bearing down upon them, got under way. The American 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. Captain 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 ours;" two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop.

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 Lieu

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this was executed in the midst

Captain Elliot immediately  
ews, and while Perry led up  
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her vessels into action. The  
aking through the enemy's line,  
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again hoisted. The remainder  
n fleet coming up, the action  
es terminated in the capture of  
sh squadron, a thing almost un-  
al warfare.

et the enemy," said Commodore  
ey are ours;" two ships, two  
ner, and one sloop.

of prisoners exceeded that of  
twenty-six Americans were kill-  
ded. Lieutenant Brooks, of the  
killed, as also several valuable  
rs. The Captain and first Lieu

tenant of the Queen Charlotte were killed; Com-  
modore Barclay severely wounded. The con-  
duct 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 Shel-  
by, was at the head of the volunteers of that  
state, accompanied by the first men of the com-  
monwealth. The troops being taken on board  
the fleet, were transported to the Canada side,  
where they found the villages and forts evac-  
uated, 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 fugitive 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 and terrible shout of Tecumseh, encouraging them to persist, could be heard; but already his days were numbered. Whether he fell by the hand of Col. Johnson or by that of Col. Whitely, (an old Indian fighter, and a volunteer on this occasion,) seems to be a question still unsettled. Whitely was found dead near the spot,

troops into two lines, consisting of Trotter's brigades, under with the mounted men of Col. he advanced against the enemy, drawn up between the river and the Indians under Tecumseh, in the swamp. It suddenly turned itself to General Harrison, to with his mounted men through the country drawn up among the open prairie. Fortune awarded the most complete success to this suggestion. Johnson suddenly broke through their ranks, formed in a line, and was preparing to give them a deadly rifle, when they surrendered. The contest was more obstinate than first made some impression upon the infantry, when Governor Shelby sent a regiment to their support. The Indians were as desperate as long as the life of Tecumseh, encouraging them, could be heard; but already his fall was numbered. Whether he fell by the hand of Johnson or by that of Col. White, a Native American fighter, and a volunteer on the spot, seems to be a question still unsettled. His body was found dead near the spot,

and Col. Johnson severely wounded, and about thirty Indians lay dead around the body of their chief.

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 take 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, without 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 expectations, lost no time in making the attempt. the General in command was an old and experienced officer of acknowledged abilities; General Wilkinson had been ordered from the South, and in the course of the summer had assumed the directions of the military operations on the Niagara; while General Hampton, another officer of experience, took command of the forces at Plattsburg. 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 move-

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running fights, however, took the British knight displayed in making his escape. This little increased by the victory of Commodore Perry; in fact, after he studiously avoided coming to a superiority so decided as to the result.

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ments 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 although 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

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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 pass 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 advance, a considerable force was discovered in the rear, on the Canada side; a halt was, therefore, commanded, while General Boyd was ordered to face about with his brigade, and beat off the enemy. 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

discovered: in his descent he annoyed by their musquetry, finding they were found hanging with all the force that could be brought to pass the Rapids of the eight miles in length, General was equipped with a considerable force for the passage of the flotilla. effected without considerable loss. General Brown, after a smart skirmish with the enemy, but it being too late the flotilla lay by for the night. When about to advance, a reconnoissance was discovered in the rear, on which a halt was, therefore, commanded. General Boyd was ordered to lead his brigade, and beat off the Americans were drawn up in line, commanded by Generals Covington and Coles. After a warm contest of an hour, in which the enemy refused to give way before the bayonet, at length compelled to retreat. Having expended their ammunition, they were obliged to make a retrograde movement. A violent storm arose about the middle of the night, 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 supplies, 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 or-

ders 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 the chance of success, while in war there are most usually two chances; no allowance was made for the possibility of a failure. Its bad effects were soon experienced. General Harrison had received orders to move down the St. Lawrence and join the army; the whole Niagara frontier was left unprotected. Gen. M'Clure, who was left in command 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

commander-in-chief, professing still to operate in any plan he might have originated the mighty invasion which so much was expected. The General threw the blame on the Secretary of War on the ground that the season was too far advanced for the force was not sufficient for the enterprise. The disappointment, however, tended to bring the leaders of this campaign, out so barren of glory. The winter quarters.

Every movement was calculated only for success, while in war there are only two chances; no allowance for the possibility of a failure. Its results were soon experienced. General received orders to move down the river and join the army; the whole frontier was left unprotected. General was left in command at Fort Niagara that the enemy was approaching in considerable numbers, blew up the fort on the Canada side, at the same time the village of Newark, situated on the river, was destroyed by an act at the time universally

censured and lamented in the United States, and which the government took the earliest opportunity to disavow.

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 submitted to a Court of Inquiry, who passed a severe censure upon it. The British, not content with this, crossed the river in considerable force, took Fort Niagara by surprise, put the garrison to death, and then laid waste, with fire and sword, the whole frontier, from ten to fifteen 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 directing much of her attention to the contest with America. Excepting by 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 laws of war, the persons and property of non-combatants are exempted from its devastations.— Without benefiting the cause for which they fought, the British ruined many of the inhabitants of the country. Admiral Beresford, the commander of the squadron, made a demand on the inhabitants of Lewistown for water and provisions; and on being refused, ineffectually attempted to obtain them on compulsion, by bombarding the place. The militia under Colonel Davis and Major Hunter, manfully resisted every attack.

OF THE LATE WAR.

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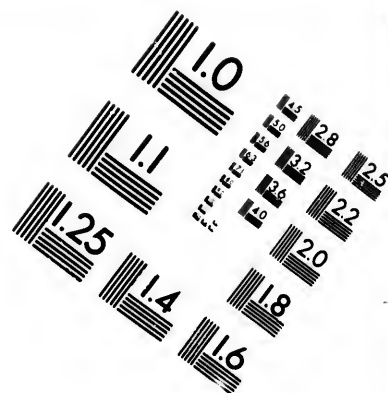
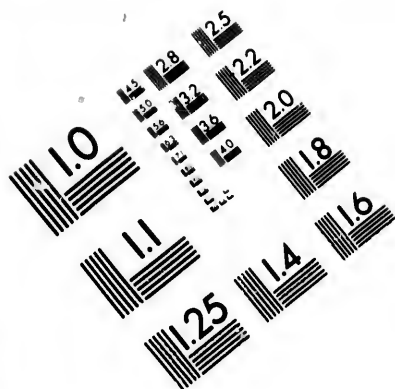
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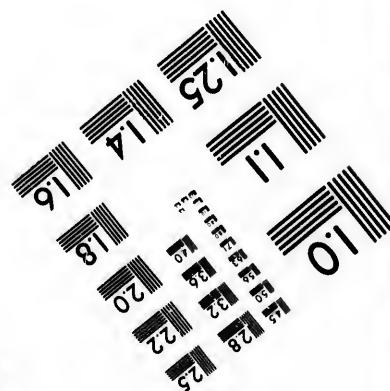
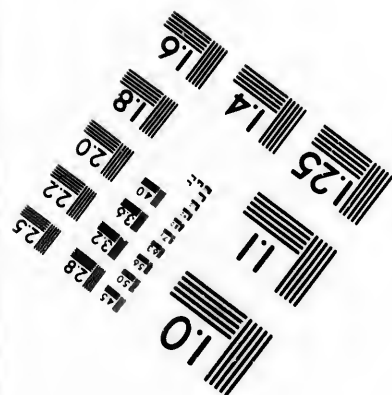
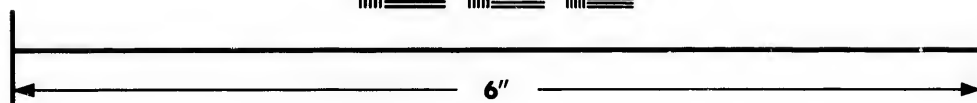
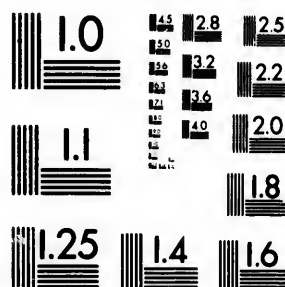
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The militia under Colonel  
Hunter, manfully resisted ev-





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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; or if there be, it has been hitherto unknown to us.\* 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 Havre 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 destroyed 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 defa-

\* The conduct of Sir Peter Parker is an exception.

cing 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 numerous 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

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ed from a most dangerous enemy; for had pos-  
 session been taken of this place, the enemy  
 could have done them incalculable mischief.  
 Wherever the enemy met a 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 ferocious,  
 unfeeling buccanier.

On the 21st of June, the movements indica-  
 ted 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 de-  
 barkation 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 loose 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 occurrence 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 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

forty British deserters were many others were dispersed try. There was not one man can side during the day.asperated at this inglorious ato give a loose to his thirst for to attack the village of Hampthe bay. On the 25th of June, men, and after a gallant resistt of the militia and a few reguere, the town was taken. Theasued, far surpassed any thingthe ferocious enemy with whomend; such conduct should be heldl execration, in order that theof public opinion may preventof the like among civilized peo-most licentiousness was permittednt of the unfortunate females whoer of the enemy: without regardtability in society, they wereans, and several of them actuallyquence of the shocking treatment. A poor old man, sick a-bed, washem and shot in the arms of hiswho was also wounded, and theirwas 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 over-set. 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 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 inroads, 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 Alachua 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 were closely besieged. The siege was kept up for some days, until the enemy despaired of making any impression, on which they retired, but returned in a little while, under the belief from the stillness which

commencement of the war, the Semis on the borders of Georgia, with a way negroes began to make in- fest the frontiers. On the 11th 1812, Captain Williams, of the ay some wagons, loaded with es, was attacked by a party of and compelled to retreat with the hundred men, himself receiving ch he afterwards died. Towards he same month, Col. Norman, Georgia volunteers, proceeded achua towns, with a view of chas- ges. He was attacked by a large as, and after a sharp conflict com- fly, leaving their king, Paine, on after repeated efforts to regain the y at length succeeded by bringing numbers, after which they moved on after returned, however, with a verful party; the Georgians appre- had hastily thrown up a breast h they were closely besieged. The pt up for some days, until the ene- of making any impression, on retired, but returned in a little 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 frontier 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 the greater number of the natives obstinately adhered to their Indian manners, and violently opposed the introduction of the arts 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 more 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. The unfortunate people were led to believe by their priests or magicians, that they would certainly defeat us by the assistance of their potent charms. The credulous creatures were persuaded 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.

Foreseeing 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 Indians under the command of Watterford, a half breed, rushed towards it with a hideous shout. The Major attempted to close the gate, and act-

the unfortunate people were led by their priests or magicians, that they might defeat us by the assistance of charms. The credulous Creeks were persuaded to destroy all their cattle, and that there should be nothing among them to show the appearance of civilization.— They were further stimulated by the British, who gave them some supply of powder, and made them promises of assistance. It was not until towards the close of the year, until hostilities openly commenced on this was a commencement of the kind.

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ed 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. Being harangued by their chief, 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 in 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 2d 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 force. They, notwithstanding, fought with astonishing desperation, but at last were

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compelled to retreat to their village, where they  
continued their resistance; obstinately refusing  
quarters until every one perished. The women  
and children of the village, to the number of  
eighty, were taken 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 num-  
ber of Creeks collected at a place called Talle-  
dega, engaged in besieging some friendly In-  
dians, who must inevitably perish unless speedi-  
ly relieved.

With the promptitude and decision, which  
marked his military career, and is the secret of  
his extraordinary success, 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 es-  
cape, but soon found themselves inclosed; 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 Tallapoose river. After marching the whole night of the 17th, he surprised a town at daylight, 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 Tallapoose 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 Chatahouchie. On the evening of the 29th, he encamped

ed, and were pursued to the mountain slaughter. In this action the was 15 killed and 80 wounded. Creeks was little short of 300; force exceeded 1000.

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within ten miles of the place, and resuming his march at 1 o'clock, reached the towns about six, and commenced an attack upon both at the same moment. His troops were met by the Indians with great bravery; and it was not until after a severe battle, that they were forced by his musketry and bayonets, to fly to the thicket and copse 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 unhappy beings 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 Talledega, General Jackson was left with but a handful of men, in consequence 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 Enotachopco, 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 to pass at some other point. The most judicious arrangements having been made for

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the dispositon 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 morti-  
fication, when the word was for these columns  
to form, and a few guns were fired, they pre-  
cipitately 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 artille-  
ry 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 Pickins. Captain Gordon, of the spies, had partly succeeded in turning their flank, and by his 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 180 of the Creeks were slain.

General Floyd, who was advancing from the Chatahouchie, was attacked in his camp by a large body of Indians, an hour before day.— They stole upon the sentinels, 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 cavalry, many of them were killed. The loss of General Floyd was 17 killed and

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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 de-  
feats would 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 con-  
siderable reinforcements from Tennessee, and  
being joined by some Indians, set out on an  
expedition to the Tallapoosa river. He pro-  
ceeded from the Coosa on the 24th of March,  
reached the southern extremity of the New  
Youca on the 27th, at a place called the 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 compact-  
ness. The area thus enclosed by the breast-  
works, was little short of one hundred acres.  
The warriors from Oakfuskee, Oakshaya, Hil-  
lebees, 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, Mannahoe, 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.

Jackson finding that his arrangements were now complete, at length yielded to the solicitations of his men, to be in charge. The regular troops, led by General Mins and Major Montgomery, were in possession of the nearest part of the works; the militia accompanied by equal firmness and intrepidity.—After a few minutes a very close, muzzle to muzzle, through the ranks, they succeeded in gaining the top of the works. The event could not be doubtful; the enemy, although they fought with that kind of brave desperation inspired, were cut in piecemeal along the margin of the river, which the peninsula, was strewn with the bodies of a hundred and fifty-seven were found, and thrown into the river by their hands, drowned in attempting to escape. Slain was their great prophet, Mingo, and two others of less note. About 300 children were taken prisoners.—There was 26 white men killed, and 18 Cherokees killed and 36 and 5 friendly Creeks killed and 11

This most decisive victory put an end to the Creek war. The spirit and power of these misguided men were completely broken; Jackson soon after scoured the countries on the Coosa and Talapoosa; a party of the enemy on the latter river, on his approach, fled to Pensacola.

The greater part of the Creeks now came forward and threw themselves on the mercy of the victors. A detachment from North and South Carolina, under the command of Colonel Pearson, scoured the country on the Alabama, and received the submission of a great many 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 territory as an indemnity for the expenses 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 Indians. The General, on the part of the United States, undertook to guarantee their remaining 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 provide for themselves. They also engaged to establish trading houses, and endeavor to bring back the nation to its 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, Captain Jones, and the sloop of war Hornet, Captain Biddle, was blockaded in the harbor of New York, by a strong squadron of the enemy.—After making several attempts to escape and proceed on a cruise, they ran through the sound, but were immediately pursued, and so closely as to be compelled to seek refuge in the harbor 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 War-rington, of the United States sloop of war,

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9th of April, 1814, Captain War-  
the United States sloop of war,

Peacock, fell in with, and captured the British  
sloop of war Epervier, rating and mounting  
eighteen 32 pound carronades, with a crew of  
128 men. In the action the Epervier had 11  
killed and 15 wounded, among the latter her  
first Lieutenant, severely. On board the Pea-  
cock, not a man was killed, and but two were  
wounded. The Epervier was almost cut to pie-  
ces, while the American vessel, in fifteen min-  
utes 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, Captain  
Blakely, engaged, and after an action of 19  
minutes, captured the British sloop Reindeer,  
of superior force. The Reindeer was despe-  
rately 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 imprac-  
ticable 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 re-

pair, 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 1st 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 on 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 8 guns. After these numerous exploits, sinking two ships of war, and capturing the enemy's 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 enemy's flag was expelled from those waters, and the British whale fishery entirely destroyed. The admiralty was obliged to fit out several vessels, for the ex-

pose of her prisoners, again on the 27th of August. She had waited until a second opportunity of testing her prowess to the test. In September, she fell in with the enemy in a short but warm engagement, was compelled to strike; but when about to be taken of the prize, a brig of 18 guns, was descried; she immediately made for action; the appearance of two other vessels, at the same time making signals, the Wasp bore away. The Wasp captured the Atalanta, a brig. After these numerous exploits, the Wasp, a ship of war, and capturing the prize to the amount of at least \$100,000, the Wasp was for a long time expected home; but alas! her fate was certain; our gallant seamen are now riding the mountain waves of the ocean. The commander, Captain Porter, was killed in the Pacific, with his singularly crew. The enemy's flag was expelled from the waters, and the British whale fishery was destroyed. The admiralty was obliged to send out several vessels, for the ex-

press purpose of encountering this formidable enemy. Capt. 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 Valparaiso, in company with the Essex Junior.

Soon after his arrival, the British frigate Phoebe, 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 Phoebe 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 Capt. 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 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. Captain 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

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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 dis-  
 tance of thirty miles from land.

In order to bring to a close the naval incidents  
 of this war, it will be proper to notice several  
 important affairs, which in order of time, may  
 appear somewhat out of place; this will, how-  
 ever, 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 sever-  
 al frigates and ships of war, under the com-  
 mand 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 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 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; and the Endymion was in a short time so near as 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 accident first mentioned. He was disappointed in this by the manœuvres 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 that it was strained. Lieutenant Verely

The United States of America, 1815, Commodore's ship, which raking exertion, ed to be of thirty brig L carronade, enemy, The Commodore wounded Port P Leander Captain paid to make long but the

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Captain Biddle, near the island of Santa Fe, fell in with, and after an hour's fight, on the 23d of March, the British Majesty's brig Penguin was captured. The captured vessel was killed and 28 wounded. Captain Biddle was killed, and 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, unless 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 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 Leander 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, 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 important 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.

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of the summer, several impor- were undertaken by the enemy trene north eastern frontier of ates, where the American force a feeble resistance.

Eastport, Castine, Machias, and other villages between the Penobscot and the Bay of Passamaquoddy, were successively visited without any resistance of consequence. The British commander affected to take possession of all the country east of Penobscot, and fortifying Eastport, 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. Captain 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—Battles 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 conduct of this officer, on several occasions,

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Spring, General Brown, who from the main body with arrived at Niagara. The gallant 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 James 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 Captain Boyle, with a party of sailors, and the Growler's crew under Lieutenant Pierce. 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

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## HISTORY OF THE LATE WAR.

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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 New York and Pennsylvania volunteers under General Porter. They were suffered to cross the river and land without molestation; the first brigade under General Scott, the artillery, commanded by Major Hindman, landed below fort Eric, while General Ripley, with the second, landed some distance above the fort. The garrison was invested, and being almost taken by surprise, surrendered with but very little resistance. One hundred and thirty-seven prisoners were taken.

Placing a small garrison in the fort, General Brown moved the following day to Chippewa plains. In approaching this place, General 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 battalion 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 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 well fought action, the British 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,

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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 unguarded, gained his rear, and as the clouds of night were fast descending, he penetrated the British line and cut off its left wing, making prisoners of Gen. Rial and suit, while Gen Drummond narrowly escaped.

Ripley's brigade at length arrived, and in order to relieve the troops of Gen. Scott, now almost exhausted, 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.

The troops advanced in column to the perilous contest, 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 Americans were left in quiet possession of the field: it was now midnight, and having been so long engaged in this sanguinary en-

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gement, they were ordered to retreat; but  
 unfortunately, the trophies of this splendid vic-  
 tory could not be secured, from the want of the  
 means to convey the artillery, the carriages  
 having been shattered, and the horses killed.  
 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. This was beyond all question the most  
 desperately fought action on land, during the  
 war. It was a fair trial of military skill and  
 courage; and although no great advantage was  
 either gained or lost, the moral effect would  
 have been felt if the war had been of much  
 longer continuance. The two armies were  
 nearly matched, and the loss in killed and  
 wounded on either side, amounted to a fifth of  
 the whole number engaged, a mortality almost  
 unparalleled in modern warfare.

On the 15th of August, after the fort had  
 been for some time invested by General Drum-  
 mond, 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 2nd 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 infilading 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 route through the woods, came suddenly upon the enemy's flank, and charging in co-

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lumn, took possession of all the enemy's batte-  
ries, though not without 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 volun-  
teers, and Cols. Gibson and Wood, two valua-  
ble officers. The Wellingtonian "Invincibles"  
after this, thought proper to retire, and ac-  
cordingly Generals Drummond and Waterville,  
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 gain-  
ed 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, Gains, Miller,  
Porter, Davis, Jessup, Ree, Gibson, Wood, Mor-  
gan, Hindman, Aspinwall, Leavenworth, Tow-  
son and Trimble, will be written in letters of  
gold, on the arch of American glory.

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## 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 enterprise was undertaken; but Admiral Cockburn was actively engaged as usual, in plundering and pilfering the planters. To oppose some check to this atrocious freebooter, 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.

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A more formidable squadron of boats, a few days afterwards, compelled the Commodore to take refuge in 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 the determination to attack Washington was formed. The circumstance 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 harrass 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 harrassing him in his advance. Within six miles of the American camp, the enemy was descried marching in column; after firing a few rounds, the detachment retreated, and the enemy advancing three miles further, encamped

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for the night. Apprehensive of a night attack,  
 the General marched about sunset into Wash-  
 ington, and encamped near the navy-yard.  
 Early the next morning, the British were dis-  
 covered 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 accompa-  
 nied by the artillery companies of Myers and  
 Magrauder, and the light battalion of riflemen  
 under Pickney, 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; Ster-  
 ret'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 Colonel Monroe, approved of them. The  
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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 Commodore Barney, the other under Captain 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 column to the bridge. The advance under Colonel 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 General Ross. The American artillery and

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rifemen 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 approached within  
musket range of Stansbury's brigade, this bri-  
gade broke: all the efforts of the commander,  
General Winder, and the other officers, could  
not rally them. They fled in confusion, carry-  
ing 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 strewn with their dead. They  
deployed, and pushing out flanking parties, en-  
deavored to gain the American rear; on ap-  
proaching 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 par-  
ties, until both these gallant corps were in dan-  
ger of being cut off, when they were ordered  
to retreat. The Commodore had been severely  
wounded, and fell into the enemy's hands.—  
Stansbury's brigade had been ordered to rally  
on the second line, commanded by Gen. Smith;  
but on coming to the road which led to Mont-

gomery Court-house, they had nearly all taken that direction, and the remainder were dispersed. Gen. Winder, now apprehensive that this line would be outflanked, ordered it to retreat, intending to make another stand near the capital. Gen. Winder rode to the capital, 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. Thus ended the unfortunate attempt to defend the capital of the American republic. Public opinion has settled down under the belief that a fault was committed by some one. Washington ought never to have been taken; but it is not altogether wise to say that if this or that officer had had the command, the result would have been different. I think the great error consisted in losing sight of the enemy a single instant, after his object was discovered—every inch of ground should have been contested.

Meeting with no farther resistance, the British general approached the metropolis with about 1000 men, where he arrived about 8 o'clock in the evening, while the remainder

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of the army encamped within a mile or two  
of the place. The libraries were burnt, as  
also were the different offices, whence fortu-  
nately the archives of the States had been re-  
moved. The loss of the British was very con-  
siderable; it is estimated at 1000, many hav-  
ing deserted.

The enemy retreated to Benedict on the 25th,  
carrying away considerable booty. In the  
meanwhile, the naval detachment under Capt.  
Gordon, ascended the Potomac, and on the 27th,  
approached fort Washington, which was imme-  
diately blown up by the officer commanding,  
without firing a gun! The enemy now meet-  
ing 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 Ches-  
apeake, 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 General 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 Smith, and Brigadier General Strickler: 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

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the city. Early in the morning, the videttes  
brought information that the enemy was de-  
barking 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 rock-  
ets; a brisk cannonade was opened from the ar-  
tillery of Capt. Montgomery, which was warm-  
ly returned by the enemy, and the action soon  
became general.

The American commander maintained his  
ground an hour and a half against the superior  
numbers of the British. Unfortunately, how-  
ever, 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, and Captain Burd's United States dragoons. 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 Commodore Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers, the Baltimore marine artillery, manned the entrenchments 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 hostile army appeared within two miles in front of the American lines, inclined to the York and Hartford Roads, as if to reach the town in that direction; but observing that Generals Stricker and Winder adapted their move

the rear. This being effected, the march and retired to the open ground up on the rising ground to the city, where he was presently joined by Winder and Douglass, with the militia, and Captain Burd's ragoons. In this well fought battle, not more than 1400 men on the British side, their numbers having been reduced to the reserve, and by the unfortunate loss of the troops that gave the American side was about 1000 men and wounded; the British loss

under General Stansbury and the men and marines under Commodore, the Pennsylvania volunteers, the marine artillery, manned the entire heavy batteries. Thus posted, they waited the approach of the British and did not thought proper to push the battle of North Point. Next day the British army appeared within two miles of the American lines, inclined to the Hartford Roads, as if to reach the city; but observing that General Winder adapted their move-

ments so as to counteract 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 imprac-

ticable. 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 Provost 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, passed into the American territory, while at the same time, a squadron under Captain Downie entered Lake Champlain.

General M'Comb and Commodore M'Donough, were not idle in making every preparation to oppose the most effectual resistance to

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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 ex-  
ertion made on this important occasion, he ad-  
ded 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 Appling, Major  
Wood, and Captain Sproul, were sent forward  
at the head of detachments, to meet the advan-  
cing foe. It was not till the 10th, that Sir  
George reached Plattsburgh, and took posses-  
sion of the village, while the Americans retreat-  
ed behind their defences on the other side of 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 their squadron, intending to cap-  
ture the American ships. Numerous skirmish-  
es, however, occurred daily.

On the 11th, early in the morning, the look-out boats of Commodore M'Donnough 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 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

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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 gallies 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, Captain 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.

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## 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 25th 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 Captain

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Woodbine, consisting of about 100 marines, and  
400 Indians under Col. Nicholas, 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 Ches-  
apeake had gone chiefly to the Bermudas, and  
every day brought accounts of important prepa-  
rations for some enterprise against the South-  
ern States. The mighty armament at length  
made its appearance in the Gulf of Mexico,  
consisting of sixty sail, attended by a vast num-  
ber 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.

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 Cat 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 resorted to the expedient, excusable only in the last extremity of danger; of declaring martial law, 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 Baratian pirates. Their leader had received offers from

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the English which were refused. They offered  
themselves to Gen. Jackson, and were received.  
For their bravery their chief Lafitte, and them-  
selves, 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 General  
Villere, a native of the country, and well  
acquainted with the secret passages. Unfortu-  
nately, the guard stationed at the entrance of  
the bayou Bien-venu was captured, and the ene-  
my, proceeding with great caution, reached  
unperceived the firm 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 then march towards  
it at their leisure, as it was now, in their estima-  
tion, 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 prisoner, but had contrived to effect his escape. The General, with his usual promptitude, hesitated not a moment in taking the measures; to which under Providence, the fortune of the war may be ascribed. 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

had contrived to effect his retreat, with his usual promptness, at a moment in taking the city under Providence, the success may be ascribed. He issued orders under the command of some miles up the river, place of rendezvous, and giving the other corps to be collected in speed, he put himself at the head of the city militia, and the other troops, and advanced a few miles where he halted to give orders to his forces to join him. The British was at the same time down the river. Gen. Jackson ordered the other troops, now pursued, it was some time after dark when they reached the British encampment. The militia was placed on the right, while the other troops led the British, attacked in front. The British by a broadside from the Carolina executed, as the British and their fires and entirely off the enemy were at first struck, but after some time being

rallied, they formed and returned the fire of the Americans. A thick fog 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 advantages 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 23 killed, and 115 wounded and 74 missing. The British loss was estimated at 46 killed, 167 wounded and 64 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. Balloons 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 works, they made another attack, and were compelled 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 Pakenham, was little short of 10,000 men, and it was now resolved to force the American lines

A swell in the river, this season, enabled them in the levee, and to flood of the line, and when the sufficient quantity was left in opposite bank of the river, constructed, and batteries with the British directed hot who from her position edgingly. They succeeded Two days afterwards, they ck on the American lines and artillery, but after a y retired in the evening. On the 1st of January, ight erected batteries within s of the American works, attack, and were compelled with the loss of 70 men. had taken the place of the incommoded them. On omas and Adair, arrived at itia from Kentucky. On vere re-inforced by Gene- hole force under General short of 10,000 men, and o force the American lines

by main strength. These were manned by heterogeneous materials; men of different countries and languages, and not all armed, particularly the militia last arrived.

In the night of the 7th the enemy with infinite labor succeeded in widening and deepening 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 carrying 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 tremendous fire, and as their columns were entirely uncovered 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

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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 General 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

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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 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, leav-  
 ing the batteries in the hands of the British.  
 The enemy had been able to outflank them, in  
 consequence of the giving way of a battalion  
 of Louisiana militia. The loss of the Ameri-  
 cans 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 dis-  
 covered to have descended the bayou during  
 the night, leaving a great number of wounded  
 officers and privates. The inhabitants were  
 filled with joy for this providential deliverance,  
 and hailed Jackson as their deliverer. They  
 poured forth their gratitude in public thanks-  
 giving for this signal escape from a foe who  
 would have doomed their city to pillage and  
 destruction. The utmost tenderness and hu-  
 manity were exhibited by all the inhabitants, to  
 the unfortunate victims of the war, who required  
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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 pouring 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 confederation, 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 24th of December, 1814, and ratified by the Prince Regent on the 28th, 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

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Afterwards, it was discovered  
 d entirely disappeared, and  
 ana, then the latest star in  
 phone with beautiful lustre.  
 oceeded soon after to attack  
 being able to bring an over-  
 gainst it, they took possession  
 t however to retain it long, as  
 e soon after caused it to be  
 ericans.

welcome to all, at last arrived.  
 between the British and Amer-  
 rs, on the 24th of December,  
 by the Prince Regent on the  
 President and Senate on the  
 ry, 1815. All parties in the  
 artily rejoiced. America was  
 struggle; the enemy had been  
 hed both by sea and land; and  
 ge which had occurred in Eu-  
 ed 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.

## CHAPTER XVII.

Seminole War—Florida Treaty.

ALTHOUGH the war was thus happily termi-  
 nated, the temple of Janus was not yet com-  
 pletely closed. Hostilities were still kept up  
 by the refugee Creek Indians, and their kind-  
 red tribes, the Seminoles, within the Spanish  
 boundary, between the United States and the  
 Floridas.

General Gaines, early in 1817, established  
 himself with a considerable force, on the fron-  
 tier of Georgia, for the purpose of repressing  
 the incursions of the Seminoles; but he had  
 received at this time no orders to cross into  
 the Spanish territory.

A demand was made from the Indians, of  
 the perpetrators of the murders and robberies,  
 with which they were charged; but without  
 any other effect than to provoke them to re-

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peat their aggressions. The matter was growing serious, especially, as a harbor was openly afforded for the runaway slaves, a number of whom had been left by the British, on their retreat from Florida, and who might form a dangerous rallying point.

An occurrence took place in the month of November, which called for active measures on the part of the United States. Lieutenant Scott, descending the Appalachicola in a boat, with about fifty persons, many of them women and children, was suddenly attacked, and with the exception of one woman, the whole party was massacred by the Indians, with circumstances of cruelty seldom exceeded even among those barbarous people. The Indians, in the meantime, fancying themselves in perfect security, within the Spanish limits, had collected in considerable force, apparently elated by their recent exploit. Towards the close of the year, General Gains received discretionary orders to pass the Spanish boundary, and march into the Indian country, if this should be found the only means of repressing their barbarous inroads into our territory.

On the receipt of the intelligence of the murder of Lieutenant Scott and his party, General

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of repressing their barbarous  
r territory.

t of the intelligence of the mur-  
nt Scott and his party, General

Jackson was ordered to take the command of  
the forces collected near the seat of war, with  
authority to call upon the militia of the ad-  
joining states, for reinforcements. His orders  
were similar to those of General Gains, but  
with more urgent instructions to bring the war  
to a speedy and effectual termination.

Jackson, with his usual promptitude, march-  
ed to the borders of Florida with a consider-  
able body of Tennessee volunteers, and some  
friendly Indians under his command. He im-  
mediately crossed the Spanish line, and entered  
the Seminole country, destroyed the Micasurky  
towns, and then proceeded to the Spanish fort  
of St. Marks, at that time garrisoned by a small  
force, entirely insufficient to have any control  
over the Indians. He then summoned the fort  
to surrender, and then entered it without re-  
sistance. It was then garrisoned by American  
troops.

After this, he marched to the Tucoany, and  
destroyed the Indian towns on that river. The  
motive assigned for the capture of St. Marks,  
was the inability of the Spanish force to re-  
press the hostility of the Indians, and the al-  
leged fact, of the Spanish commander having  
afforded them the means of carrying on the

war—reasons which, on the part of the American general may be considered amply sufficient for acting on his own responsibility, although his orders were no further discretionary, than to authorize him to pass the Spanish boundary, in pursuit of the savages.

An occurrence took place shortly after, which gave rise to much difference of opinion, and animated discussion, although the conduct of General Jackson was sustained by the Executive, and sanctioned by a majority of votes in congress. Two British subjects, Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert Ambristie, were seized within the territory thus occupied, and a court martial was ordered by the General; the court in obedience to the order, took their cases under consideration, and sentenced Arbuthnot to be hanged, and Ambristie to be shot, on the charge of having aided and excited the Indians to make war against us. The court on reconsideration, changed the sentence of Ambristie, to a milder punishment. But the General set aside the last decision of the court, and ordered the first to be carried into execution, which was accordingly done, and both the unfortunate men suffered an ignominious death.

The two principal chiefs, who had been the

OF THE LATE WAR.

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chiefs, who had been the

leaders of the Indians, (one of them engaged in the massacre of Lieutenant Scott,) were taken by General Jackson, and also executed. The Indians have always been barbarous and cruel in their mode of warfare towards us, although we have observed towards them the laws of civilized war, which require us to *spare the vanquished*, unless they be pirates, spies or traitors.

The General having terminated the war in this quarter, dismissed the Georgia militia, and was about to take up his line of march for Tennessee, when accounts reached him from that part of Florida west of the Appalachicola, which induced him to change his purpose. The Indians and negroes had fortified themselves on this river; and it was said, that a large body of the former was collecting at Pensacola.

These Indians were part of the Creeks, who had been subdued during the war, and who had of late, committed outrages in Alabama, and it was even said, were furnished with ammunition and supplies by the Spanish commandant. The General proceeded to Pensacola with about twelve hundred men—advanced to the town, although warned by a communication from the Governor against the violation of a neutral territory.



He took possession of Pensacola, and afterwards of the fort at the entrance of the bay, after a feeble resistance on the part of the Spaniards. The Indians fled everywhere in dismay, and hid themselves in impenetrable swamps, where many perished from hunger. Two companies of rangers scoured the country in every direction, until the Indians entirely disappeared.

The taking of Pensacola and St. Marks, and the occupation of the Spanish territory, gave rise to serious remonstrances on the part of the Spanish minister. The executive justified the conduct of General Jackson, which arose from a necessity, in which the Spanish government was to blame. But as the nullity of occupation of Florida, and the expulsion of the Spanish authority was not authorized by the executive, it was agreed to restore the country to Spain.

In the meantime, treaties were set on foot for the purchase of Florida, which was at last accomplished, and possession, in pursuance thereof, delivered on the 17th of January, 1821. Thus according to the expression of the great Athenian orator, "CUTTING UP THE WAR BY THE ROOTS."

THE END.

OF THE LATE WAR.

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