Attempted Conquest of Canada
THE GREAT WAR OF 1812 AND WHAT IT DID FOR THE BRITISH COLONY

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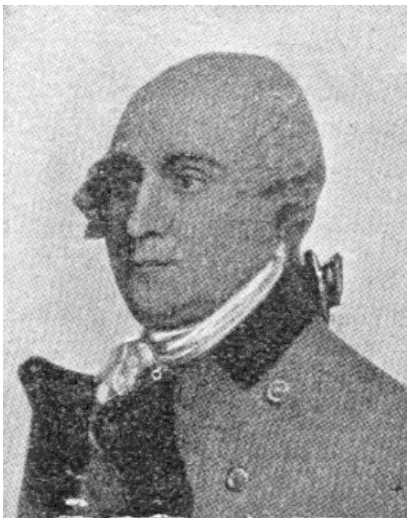
When the English troops evacuated the territory of the new republic in 1783, there were thousands of inhabitants of the various colonies who had openly sympathised and generally fought on the side of the Crown in one or other of the numerous irregular corps raised during the war. The feeling between them and their successful opponents was now so bitter that there was nothing left to the loyalist but exile. The vindictive attitude towards their defeated brethren whose motives of action, though often mixed like their rivals', were quite as worthy of respect, is admitted now by American historians to have been, if not a crime, at least a most egregious political blunder.

No terms worth the paper they were written on were secured to them by Great Britain at the peace. Their property was confiscated and their persons insulted. Some remained and endeavoured to live it clown, but without success. England is not seldom an ungrateful mother to her colonial children who risk their lives and fortunes for her flag. The cry of the colonist that it does not pay to he loyal is as old as the eighteenth century, and, unfortunately, only too true the result largely, one need hardly remark, of our system of party government. In this case the Crown voted a sum of money, which after long years some of the survivors in part received. Of private sympathy and generosity to the numbers who had no refuge but England little was shown.

Their correspondence is significant and melancholy reading, for they found themselves too often treated with supercilious neglect even by those who should have befriended them. Their elemental principles, too, were further shocked by discovering a country one-half of whose people rejoiced openly or secretly at the defeat of its own armies. It is a sad and little-known tale, but the brighter side of it, full of hardship and suffering though it was, need only he told here.



Sir Guy Carleton

Fortunately for all concerned, the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick then carved out of it, and the fertile Prince Edward Island were still British, still practically undeveloped and eminently suited for settlement. Free grants of land were now offered in these provinces to any loyalist refugees who should apply for them, and ships were provided to convey them there, as well as sufficient supplies and farm implements to tide over the first necessarily unproductive year.

This would have been a comparatively advantageous start for companies of English peasants. But these people had lost in hundreds of cases valuable estates, in most instances comfortable farms or homes. They came from every colony, where many had been social and political leaders, and several thousands were already, in 1782, within the British lines at New York, where **Sir Guy Carleton**, now commander-in-chief and charged with the military evacuation of the country, refused to move till he had safely embarked the last one of them.

By way of this and other ports, over 30,000 men, women and children were landed in their new homes in these maritime provinces alone. Scarcely any had than their wearing apparel in property. The reputation of Nova Scotia and the adjoining mainland, all till then called Acadia, stood low as a place of agricultural settlement. In this particular, however, the newcomers were pleasantly surprised; but they had long years of toil, want and suffering to endure before they had carved themselves out new homes in the woods, and entered into comfortable possession of the great provinces, the bulk of whose people to-day are proud to call themselves descendants of the UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS.

Of this same exodus another ten or fifteen thousand went to Canada proper, mainly to what is now the province of Ontario. The principal settlements here were at old Fort Frontenac, now Kingston, and away to the west on the Niagara peninsula. In this case to the rigours of backwoods settlement were usually added the hardships of many weeks of weary march thither by bateau and canoe and Indian trails through the forest. Acadia had, of course, been well known, though still sparsely settled. Halifax was already a small British town and port. But the northern shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie had been regarded by the American colonists as a forbidding wilderness of different soil, held in the grip of winter for most of the year. French Canadian settlement had reached no further than Montreal. All beyond was part of that vast, shaggy, boundless hinterland which suggested nothing present or future to contemporary man but beaver skins.

There had, in fact, been no incentive to test this country. The French land system held the people to their own seigniories, of which not a tenth part were cleared. Now, however, reports came to the American refugees of another character altogether regarding this wild western country. Experts went to report on it, and reported favourably, and the immigration thither began. As in the maritime provinces, so here the remnant of loyalist regiments settled in many instances together.

Nor were these all English. Germans who had served the king removed here wholesale in their military companies, from choice in their case and a sentiment of gratitude for the treatment they had uniformly received from the Crown, while there were, of course numbers of New York Dutch loyalists who had lost their all, as well as Scottish highlanders, recent settlers in the Carolinas, whose natural instincts had kept them on the loyalists' side. In short, English Canada, in its origin, may be almost regarded as a military colony. To these original bands large additions were quickly made. Numbers of people, flinching from exile, clung, in spite of all, to the land of their birth till the unrelenting persecution of their republican neighbours made their lives unendurable. And it is only fair to add that the contest between the two factions during the many years of war had been conducted on both sides with singular ferocity. The conditions of the war, too, and of the country, had been such that it was almost everywhere safer at the moment, whatever the remote disadvantage might be, to take the popular side when not actually under the British guns.

The majority of the colonial manhood did not personally carry a musket, and it was generally safer for those who " sat on the fence " to shout, at any rate, for the patriot side. It followed, therefore, that the bulk of the exiles were men of force, character and independence; men, too, who in most cases had themselves disapproved of the British policy, while at the same time deprecating an appeal to arms. When the rupture came, however, they had shown the courage of their convictions, and their sad case proved that they had resisted the frequent opportunities to retract and change sides which offered themselves during the struggle. Thus it happened that the intolerance of the Americans, sometimes stimulated by private commercial indebtedness, an intolerance endorsed by their government in cold blood, proved to them the curse that it well deserved to be.

That they hoped to possess the vast country now known as Canada was undoubted and reasonable. But they had inadvertently placed upon it a picked garrison who hated them with a hatred inconceivable to the ordinary Englishman or Frenchman of modern times, and proved the means of permanently alienating Canada; a hatred, too, which in a modified degree endured to their children's children. Nay, its echoes are there yet, and are a constant source of surprise to the travelling Briton who is unfamiliar with the history of Canada, and hears these sentiments from persons in themselves more like Americans than Englishmen.

To be a United Empire Loyalist, as immigration from Europe swelled the population, came to be a badge of honour. It was seriously proposed that the significant letters "U.E.L." should be granted by patent, and retained as an hereditary affix to the names of individuals and their descendants who are now legion. Both in the maritime provinces and Ontario, it is at this day accounted a matter of pride to be of "U.E.L. stock." In the seaboard British provinces this large influx presented no race problems. Nova Scotia had already a British majority when its population was trebled in a couple of years by the British loyalist influx.

The pleasant fertile island of Prince Edward was practically virgin ground. But in Canada proper the whole conditions were altered. The British element, from a handful of merchants, had been suddenly increased by 20,000 energetic and able people. For, in addition to large settlements in the upper country, numbers were demanding land in Quebec, notably in the eastern townships. What is more, the climate had been proved as bearable and the soil much better than that of populous New England. Many Americans of the humbler sort, misdoubting the

unsettled state of their own country, disliking the new taxation, or merely attracted by good and cheap land, crossed the border. Nor was it merely the phase of the moment, for it was quite evident that Canada was going to be a British as well as a French colony, and the whole machinery would require reconstruction. Carleton, now created Lord Dorchester, had been sent again as governor in 1786 to face these difficulties. He was assisted by many competent lawyers, though they did not all agree.

It was obvious that the large and increasing English community from self-governing colonies would not long tolerate the autocratic government which had really suited the French. To create an assembly with a small minority of skilled parliamentarians sitting among a majority of another race and creed, and quite unused to public affairs, would be to invite friction and deadlock. The result of much agitation and many conflicting opinions was the **C**ANADA **A**CT, dividing the country into the provinces of Lower Canada (Quebec), and Upper Canada (now Ontario), thus separating to a great extent the French and English.

Each province was allotted a governor with a nominated council, from which the executive was selected, and an elective assembly. The principal opposition naturally arose from the English in the old province of Quebec, who, though greatly increased, were still but a trifling minority. The Act was passed, however, in 1791, after considerable discussion in the British Parliament, and **John Graves Simcoe**, an English officer who had commanded a colonial corps in the American War, was the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. As the legislative assemblies had very limited power of the purse, and as the executive was independent of them, while the council, or upper house, could veto all their Bills at will, this was a faint reflection of the British model of popular government. With really responsible government, and only a nominal power of veto at this early date, there would have been more friction between the races, numerically unequal as they were, and much more danger.

The only hope of impartiality lay in the governor. Dorchester, for instance, was inclined to favour the French as a pure matter of personal judgment. Imagine an executive responsible to an English or French majority inclined to favour its rivals! The very thought is an absurdity. In Lower Canada there were, of course, both grievances and difficulties. The latter were caused mainly by the dual code of laws and disagreements between the English influence and the always ultra-montane Church in efforts for a wide education. The former were experience by the French later on in their exclusion from the principal offices of state. In Upper Canada the seat of government was temporarily at Niagara, but in due course, and after not inconsiderable discussion, was removed to York, the nucleus of the present city of Toronto.

The years between 1791 and the war of 1812 would represent a distinct epoch in Canada if only for the fact that its establishment for all time as an English as well as a French colony was then in progress. The destitution of some of the earlier immigrants had been relieved by the half-pay granted to those who had held commissions through the American War, while the offices necessary to carry on the provincial government were mainly and capably filled by the refugees. Indeed, the earlier united empire settlers in Ontario, combining among them most of the talents, developed a virtual oligarchy. and acquired such a grip of the provincial government that for half a century it made a pliant tool of most lieutenant-governors, and held the growing democracy at arm's length till, in 1837, as we shall see, its arrogance provoked a rebellion. The bitter anti-American feelings of the refugees who founded Upper Canada stimulated a proportionate enthusiasm for the British connection.

It was a curious situation. Men whose families for generations had lived in Massachusetts or Virginia, who had themselves grown up and taken part in one or other of the democratic self-governing colonies, and on whom the Western Continent, in appearance and speech, had set its unmistakable mark, displayed a fervour of loyalty that extended itself to every external sign and symbol of British rule, and encouraged the quasi-aristocratic atmosphere that for so long influenced the province. The earlier loyalists again professed distrust of these later waves of immigration from the United States, and regarding themselves alone as founders of the country, succeeded to a large extent in retaining much of the power.

These tendencies, however, served a useful purpose in their day, being favourable to the martial virtues, and indeed they saved Canada in 1812, though subsequently they proved wholly obstructive to its healthy growth. Hither, too, had retired the remnant of the Iroquois, who true to their ancient traditions and the leadership of the Johnsons, had fought for the Crown under their great chief **Joseph Brant** (Thayendanegea). And here to-day, near the town of Brantford, to which he gave its name, may be seen the descendants of his race, who so long were the terror of North America, now seated on the banks of the Grand

River, and cultivating arts of peace in the guise of farmers.

While in Upper Canada, steadily recruited by all sorts and conditions of settlers - mostly English and Germans - from the United States, men of various creeds and impelled by various motives, were busy hewing out their own homesteads, the external affairs of Canada, more particularly as affecting the French province, were again extremely critical. The French Revolution had shaken the world, and England was once more at war with France. One party in the new American republic, led by **Thomas Jefferson**, was enthusiastically pro-French, clamouring for war with England, and was held with difficulty in check by the more cool-headed northern states, supported by Washington and Hamilton. A combination of France and America must inevitably have overwhelmed Canada. Hateful as the principles of the Revolution were to the clerics and seigniors, the French-Canadian people would almost certainly not have fought against their old compatriots. The martial habit, too, was lost; a new generation had arisen unaccustomed to war, and unwilling to fight at all. It was fortunate that the cool, experienced veteran **Dorchester** was at the helm, for between 1790 and 1793 the two countries were more than once on the verge of war.

There were several causes of irritation, one of them being that some of the far western forts in American territory were still held by England on the plea of certain unfulfilled treaty conditions. An American and Indian war was raging around these remote outposts of British regulars, and the situation in the west was a highly inflammable one. One-half of the American people had abandoned themselves to an orgy of enthusiasm for the emancipated French, while the latter had agents in every state, as well as in Canada, who worked upon the credulous habitant with all the more success that the emissaries this time were Frenchmen. The militia in great part refused point-blank to attend their musters, despite priests and seigniors, and after all, as **Lord Dorchester** pithily informed his government, it was not wholly surprising that peaceful, ignorant peasants no longer used to handling a gun should object to being called from their farms to help Englishmen and heretics shoot one another.

A further cause of anxiety was the great number of Americans that of late years had settled in the colony, particularly in that fertile and beautiful district of Quebec, on the Vermont frontier, which was set apart for them and, popularly known as the Eastern Townships, is still mainly British. These people were no longer United Empire Loyalists, and their action in case of war was doubtful, though such very natural uncertainty has never for a moment attached to their descendants. The scantiness of the regular garrison kept in Canada through these precarious years was the despair of its governors. In 1794, however, JAY'S TREATY between Great Britain and the United States relieved the strain for a few brief years.

Though there were many undoubted causes of friction it has always seemed to the student of that period as if another fight between the Mother Country and her offspring was imperative before the air could he thoroughly cleared and their relations properly adjusted. The WAR OF **1812** was the work of the same old Jefferson party, represented mainly by the more Southern and agricultural states and now in power under the presidency of **James Madison**, another Virginian statesman. The more enlightened, vulnerable and commercial states of New England now, as before, were strongly opposed to it.

Great Britain was then engaged with Napoleon in a death grapple which was to decide whether the nations of Europe were to be French or free, and she could not always afford to be over-nice in her treatment of neutrals on the high seas. It is impossible to treat fully here of the points at issue. The chief of these were the famous ORDERS IN COUNCIL of the British Government, which ultimately proclaimed a blockade of all countries under France, the right to seize neutral ships carrying supplies to enemies and to search them for deserters, and the answering decrees of Napoleon, futile as then were for lack of ships.

Gen. Isaac Brock

Various international episodes, mainly by sea, and the increasing irritation of the Americans on shore at the decline of their commerce, at length, in June, 1812, produced the long-looked-for rupture. In anticipation of it soldiers had been sent out to Canada as rulers; **Sir George Prevost** was governor-general at Quebec, and **Sir Isaac Brock** temporary lieutenant-governor of Ontario. The former was popular

in his province, which had increased in population to 220,000. The latter was an able soldier, had been for ten years in the country and was idolised in Upper Canada, where there were now nearly 80,000 souls.

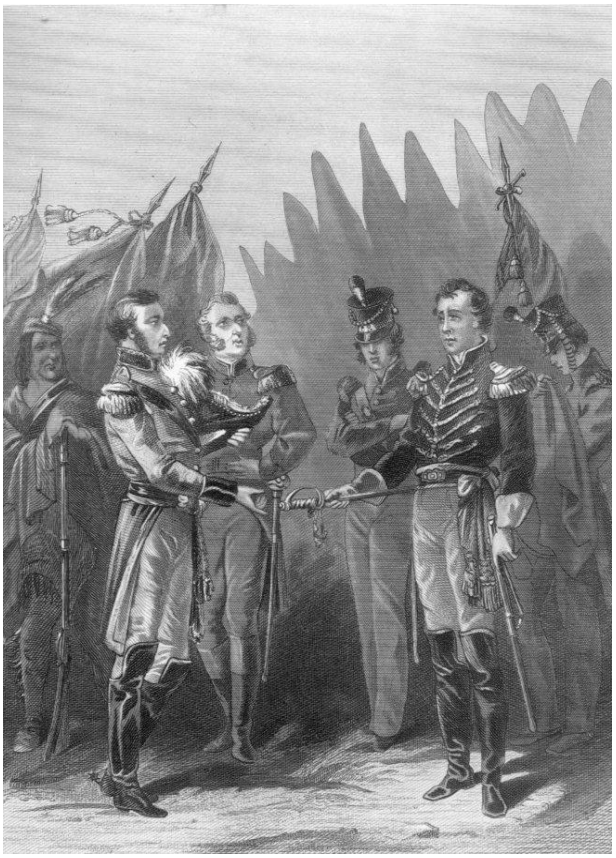
The brunt of the strife fell on the Upper Province. The population of the Canadas was now about 300,000, of which some two-thirds were French. The maritime provinces, whose story throughout this quarter of a century had been an uneventful one of steady development, remained outside the sphere of war save in their sea-borne commerce.

The Americans were unquestionably weakened by the persistent protests against war made by the New England states and their virtual abstention from any share in it. Still the most martial and best organised of the old colonial groups, they had been the backbone of Washington's armies, but were utterly averse to the Napoleonic conception of the welfare of the world, and as a sea-going people could make more allowance for the seemingly high-handed measures into which England in her desperate struggle against such great odds was forced. It was a good thing for Canada that New England took up this attitude. As it was, the Americans came surging against her in three separate divisions composed of troops mainly from the Middle and Southern states, all obsessed with the notion that the Upper Province was seething with discontent, that a majority of its people would welcome them, and, in short, that the enterprise would be a promenade terminating in rewards of land and loot. They came on under Napoleonic designations and with Napoleonic thunder.

The **A**RMY OF THE **W**EST made for Niagara, that of the **N**ORTH by the Albany and Oswego route for Kingston. There is almost a comic opera flavour about the opening scenes of this really critical struggle. But for the Canadians the moment there ,vas certainly nothing of comedy in the matter, particularly the Canadians of the Upper Province, who were the sole objects of attack.

There were 1,400 regular troops in the colony and about 2,000 enrolled militia to defend a frontier hundreds of miles in length against a nation with already nearly half the population of Great Britain. It may be doubted if any country has ever been confronted with such apparently hopeless odds as was Upper Canada. "On to Canada!" was the war-cry of the American armies, who, most fortunately were both ill-disciplined and ill-led. **General William Hull** with 2,500 men occupied Detroit on the American side of the river, which then formed the international boundary, and issued a proclamation that for exuberance of bombast is among the curiosities of military literature. The Americans had either assumed or been misled into the extraordinary notion that a majority of Canadians were eagerly awaiting them as deliverers from a tyrant's yoke. They were soon undeceived. The first blow was struck by the British far away in the north-west, where they captured the important post of Michillimackinac, with its garrison and stores. Brock, in the meantime, who had been detained by a meeting of the legislature at York, now hastened against Hull with 330 regulars and 400 militia.

Tecumseh, the famous chief, with 600



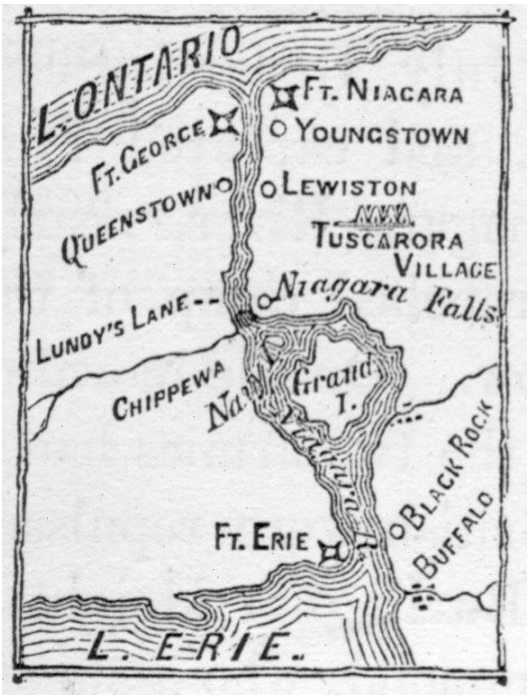
Hull Surrenders Detroit to Brock

Indians, captured Hull's convoys and cut his connections. Brock crossed the river to Detroit and with not misplaced audacity summoned his opponent to surrender; which he did with his entire force, guns and stores and very little demur. So vanished this Napoleonic meteor and his corps d'armée from the scene of war in the middle of August. An armistice proposed by the two governments for the interchange of negotiations which proved futile had somewhat checked Brock's movements, but in October he confronted the American force under **General Stephen Van Rensselaer** at Niagara and fought

the ever memorable **B**ATTLE OF **Q**UEENSTOWN **H**EIGHTS, where he lost his life in the supreme hour of victory.

Queenstown Heights is a lofty ridge over the Niagara River, between the Falls and Lake Ontario. General Van Rensselaer was on the American side with 6,000 men and headquarters at Lewiston. Brock was on the opposite shore, with about 1,200 regulars and militia somewhat scattered from an uncertainty as to the point at which a crossing might he attempted.

Before daybreak on October 13th, 1,300 Americans effected a landing at Queenstown after some skirmishing with a few hundred British posted there and a good deal of artillery fire from both sides of the river. Before Brock could reach the scene some of the enemy had gained the crest of Queenstown Heights, and the brave general at once led 200 men up the slope against them, but fell dead in the attempt with a ball in his breast. Brock was not only a splendid soldier of considerable European experience, but one of those rare Englishmen who succeeded in winning the devotion of the colonists both in peace and war. His loss in the struggle just begun was simply irreparable.



The Niagara Frontier

A lofty obelisk on Queenstown heights keeps his memory green, and two biographers have told the tale of a noble life. **General Sir Roger Sheaffe** had now arrived on the spot with reinforcements, and, gathering others of the British already in action, scaled the heights to the west of the Americans with about 1,000 men, half regulars and half militia, and a few Indians. Van Rensselaer hurried across the river for reinforcements, but the New York militia exhibited the most unblushing poltroonery, and protested that they had only been enlisted to serve in their own country. The American regulars and militia already on the heights were now charged in front by a judicious combination of volleys and bayonets, while behind them was a precipice with only one place of escape. Numbers threw themselves over it, more were shot and bayoneted, others drowned in the river, and the loss altogether was about 400. The remaining 900 surrendered as prisoners of war, while the British loss was about 70 killed and wounded. **General Alexander Smythe** now took command of the Americans, and after issuing a proclamation to the men of New York, which began with indecorous diatribes against his two predecessors, and continued in bombastic flights of rhetoric that even poor Hull had not reached, started to put his scheme of occupying and regenerating Canada into operation.

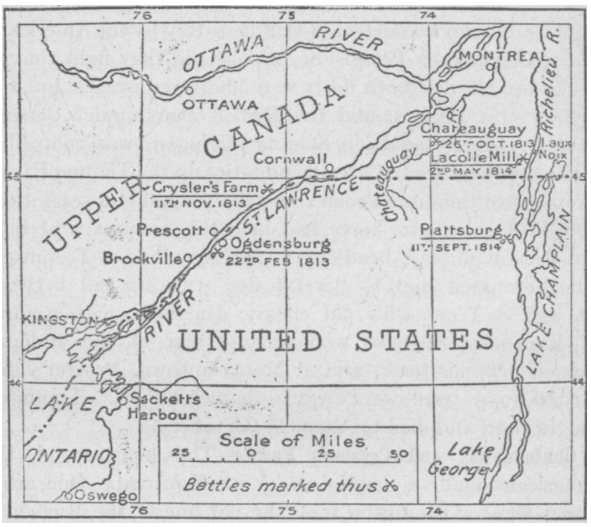
All his attacks, however, were repulsed, and when his army retired into winter quarters the eloquent general was consigned by his government to private life and oblivion. It must be remembered, however, that the Americans were engaged in a war of invasion, always difficult for raw troops, for even their regulars had no serious experience. The militia were badly officered, and all were miserably led. Their inspiring motives, again, were not elevated, while numbers, doubtless, were half-hearted. The Canadians, on the other hand, were fighting for their homes and against an enemy whom they had reason to regard with especial resentment, while the few regulars who aided them were of fine quality, belonging mainly to the, **41**ST **R**EGIMENT. With the next year, the Americans smarting under ignominious defeat braced themselves for greater efforts, got rid of their political generals, and discovered more efficient officers. Michigan was now in the hands of the British.

General Henry Proctor, at Detroit with 1,000 men, and the valuable but somewhat intermittent help of Tecumseh and his Indians, was opposed to Harrison with an army of 7,000, having defeated his colleague, **General Winchester**, with a loss of nearly 1,000 men, including prisoners. A campaign of varying fortune was conducted on the Michigan side, till a defeat of the British by the American fleet on Lake Erie left Detroit isolated and forced Proctor into Canada and a retreat up the River Thames. He had with him 800 regulars and militia, and 500 Indians. Harrison followed with 3,500 men, including 1,500 mounted riflemen from Kentucky. When Proctor was compelled to make a stand his force was reduced to about 440

regulars and about fifty local dragoons and Tecumseh's Indians. It is enough to say that he was overwhelmed. The gallant soldiers of the 41st, who had borne the brunt of two arduous campaigns and accounted for at least four times their number in Americans killed, wounded and prisoners, were wearied, ill fed, and overstrained.

They were at last ridden down by a charge of 1,200 horse, supported by over 2,000 infantry, as shown by the official figures of General Harrison, who, in the same breath and in the amazing phraseology of his generation, ascribed the victory over this poor remnant to "superior valour." Tecumseh, whose Indians offered a longer resistance, was slain. Proctor escaped, and was sent into retirement after a court-martial which, though not forgetful of his former merits, censured him for blunders, chiefly of delay. Harrison after his victory evacuated Canada.

Sir George Prevost, who had the general



Map showing St. Lawrence Border area during War of 1812-14

supervision of operations, proved extremely inefficient, and added greatly to the difficulties of his subordinates in their struggle against great odds; while when he himself led in action it was only to failure. Operations on the Niagara frontier were carried on briskly throughout the second summer, the enemy making much better use of their superior numbers. They burned York, the little capital of Upper Canada, in contravention of the terms of its surrender, which cost them their more valuable capital at Washington, destroyed by the British in retaliation. Generals Sir Roger Sheaffe and John Vincent commanded on the British shore with about a third of the number of troops opposed to them, for the Canadian militia were mostly farmers, and had to save their crops as well as fight, while the regulars could be but feebly reinforced, as the strain on Great Britain in 1813 left few to spare. The **Battle of Stoney Creek** was the most notable engagement this year, and was fought in the Niagara district when **Colonel John Harvey**, with a small force, made a night attack, and routed the American army of 2,500 men near the site of the modern city of Hamilton.

Lake Ontario, too, had been the scene of many engagements between the small fleets which struggled for mastery on a sea which meant so much to either. By land and lake, however, the year closed without definite results, nor had anything been accomplished by the American general, **James Wilkinson**, with the 8,000 men that constituted his **Army of the North**. Its object in 1814 had been the capture of Kingston, at the east end of Lake Ontario, with a view to descending the river upon Montreal. Another division of 4,000 strong under the South Carolinian generals, **Wade Hampton** and **Izard,** suffered the remarkable defeat of **Chateauguay**, fought on the river of that name just south of the St. Lawrence.

The heroes of this engagement were 380 French-Canadians under **Colonel Charles-Michel de Salaberry**, an officer of that nationality holding a commission in the 60th Regiment, who checked the advance of the enemy, on Montreal. It is famous in Canadian annals, and was won partly by skilful shooting from cover and partly by a ruse of bugle-blowing which suggested the advance of a large force and created a panic. It was a saying long afterwards in the American Army that no officer who valued his reputation would admit to having been there at all. Simultaneously with **Chateauguay**, **Wilkinson** descended the St. Lawrence with his 8,000 men and designs upon Montreal. **Colonel Morrison**, however, followed him from Kingston with as many hundred, and fought the victorious rearguard action of **Chrysler's Farm**. This, with the news of Hampton's check at Chateauguay, averted all further thoughts of an attack on Montreal, and sent both these incompetent generals into winter quarters. After two years of fighting the Americans did not hold a foot of Canadian ground. In 1814, however, there were about 8,000 British regulars and 4,000 militia, French and English, in arms in Canada.

Wilkinson, with 5,000 men, now made another unsuccessful attempt on the Lower Province. The British now held the naval supremacy of Lake Ontario and captured Oswego. There was some heavy fighting, too, on the Niagara frontier, and the American troops by experience had now become much more formidable. The **Battle of Lundy's Lane** was

the most severe of the war, 3,000 British being engaged against 5,000 Americans without any result but a loss of 800 men to either side.

Michillimackinac had been successfully held against a formidable attack and the war, of which both sides were thoroughly weary, for only the principal engagements lave been enumerated here, was terminated in December. The Americans by their success in naval duels on the ocean somewhat redeemed their lack of it on the Canadian frontier. But with these, the British attacks on the American seaboard, their capture of Washington, and their repulse by General Jackson at New Orleans, which was the closing scene, we have nothing to do here. The Canadas, at any rate, emerged triumphant. Even the maritime provinces, though not themselves invaded, had contributed their modest quota of troops to the common cause; while the faint boom of contending arms off their stern and foggy coasts was for two years a quite familiar note in their seaport towns, and the pursuit of its quarry by the privateer a frequent and exciting episode.

As regard the issues upon which the war was fought, they remained precisely as they were when it began. But Napoleon was in Elba, peace at length reigned, and the original causes of offence were automatically in abeyance. American commerce had suffered frightfully, but it is often said that the war, in spite of the malcontent states who had at one time threatened secession and a separate peace. had given a certain confidence and patriotism to the new republic. That the Canadas had gained enormously in these qualities is beyond dispute. Indeed, the War of 1812 may in a sense be called the making of Canada. Both races and all classes had fought side by side. No fight for existence that ever was made by a weak against a powerful foe left more cause for pride and satisfaction.

There were many domestic troubles in store, but that is another thing and the lot of all communities. If there had been any doubt before as to the destiny of Canada, she had now spoken with a voice that no one could misunderstand, and sealed her decision with her blood. In more senses than one, the War of 1812 - which was declared by the United States just after the ordinances, which were her principal grievances, had been repealed, and was stimulated by the expectation of an easy conquest of Canada - proved in very truth the making of that country.