

Wadsworth acted second in command, and his attachment to his youthful leader often induced him to interpose his own person to shield Scott from the bullets of the Indian rifles which were aimed against his commanding person. Scott immediately drew up his forces upon a strong and commanding position, and awaited succors from the opposite shore; but, seized by sudden fright, our men refused to move. Scott's position now became eminently perilous. The news of the conflict thus far had already been carried to Fort George below, which immediately poured forth its garrison, and with 500 Indians advanced upon our defenceless position. The assailants were received with firmness, and driven back in total route; our young hero heading his troops in person, and displaying an intrepidity and gallantry never surpassed. Several successive attacks followed. In one of them the American advanced piquets were driven in by superior numbers, and a general massacre seemed inevitable. At this critical moment Scott appeared, and by dint of vehement exertions and impetuous enthusiasm rallied his line, which had recoiled, and was upon the point of giving way. His brilliant example inspired and electrified his men, and the whole line, ringing with shouts, precipitated itself upon the enemy, scattering them in all directions, and strewing the ground with the dead and wounded.

Successive reinforcements continued to arrive, and swell the British and Indian forces, until their numbers reached not less than thirteen hundred men. The Americans had become reduced to less than three

Scott in the Hands of the Enemy.

The fortune of war thus threw our hero into the hands of the enemy, after a series of engagements that established his fame and character as a man of great personal daring, highly animating presence, and an accomplished and skilful leader. Throughout these late trying scenes he had manifested the most intrepid spirit, and unquestioned gallantry of behavior. He was always in battle in full dress uniform, and his

Scott Attacked by two Indian Chiefs.

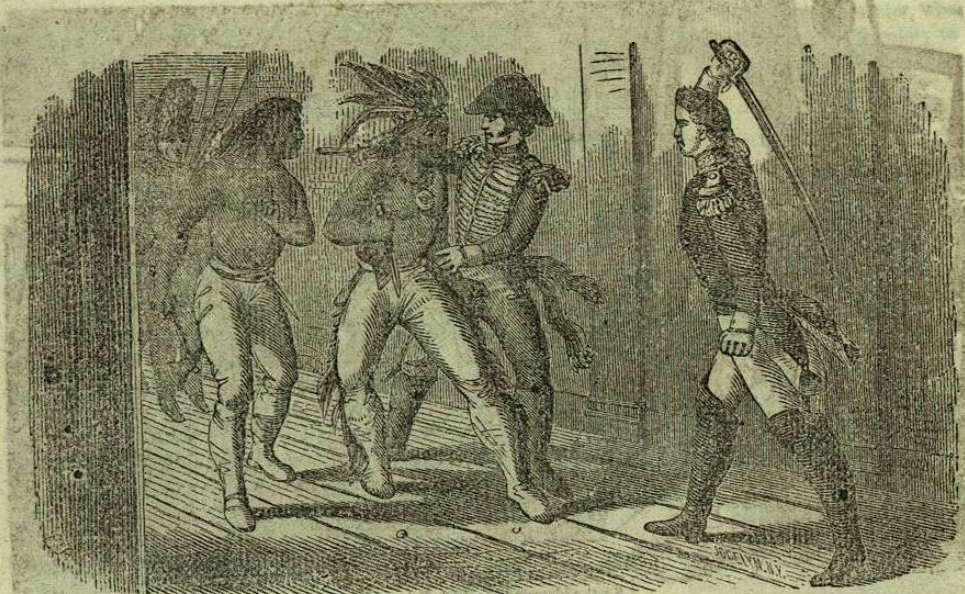
After the surrender, Scott, with the rest of the prisoners, was taken to the village of Niagara. Scott himself was lodged at an inn, under guard. Shortly after his arrival, a message came to him that some one wished to speak with the "tall American." Scott advanced into the entry to receive his visitor. What was his surprise to find two armed Indians, hideously painted, as in battle. He recognized them as two warriors who attempted to slay him at the surrender at Queenstown. One was a distinguished chief known as CAPTAIN JACOBS, and the other a son of the celebrated BRANDT. They had come to tomahawk the

hundred. No succor was to be expected, for our troops on the American shore had refused to come to the aid of their comrades. Retreat was hopeless. At this trying moment, the gallant and intrepid Scott displayed a bearing and a spirit of the most lofty heroism. In nowise daunted by the imminent peril of his position, he mounted a fallen tree of the forest, and calling around him his now diminished band, spoke these thrilling words: "The enemy's balls have thinned our ranks. His numbers are overwhelming. Directly the shock must come, and there is no retreat. We are in the beginning of a national war. Hull's ignominious surrender must be retrieved. Let us die then, arms in hand! Our country demands the sacrifice. The example will not be lost. The blood of the slain will make heroes of the living! Who is ready for the sacrifice?" An enthusiastic cry answered this eloquent appeal. "We are all ready!" was the reply.

The enemy, now under the command of Major General Sheaffe, seeing the determined resistance of the American leader, manoeuvred with great caution. They finally moved to the attack from all points. Though sorely pressed, the Americans maintained their ground, until finding themselves utterly surrounded and overwhelmed by superior numbers, and exposed to destruction, finally gave way and surrendered to the inevitable necessity of the occasion. Their heroic resistance, however, redeemed the honor of our arms, and proved by defeat itself that victory was close at hand.

tall stature (full six feet five inches) made him a conspicuous mark. He was singled out, especially by the Indians, as a target for their rifles, but remained untouched. He was urged on one occasion of great personal peril to change his dress. "No," said he, "I will die in my robes." At the moment of his exclamation, Captain Lawrence fell at his side by a shot from the enemy.

heroic leader, who had proved invincible to their bullets. They communicated to him as well as they were able how often they had unsuccessfully discharged their rifles at him. Jacobs, heated by his disappointments, rudely seized Scott by the arm, under pretence of seeing if he could find no ball marks on his person. Scott resented the indignity, and thrust the savage from him. "We kill you now!" was the immediate exclamation of both Indians. Scott tore himself from them, and instantaneously sprang to a pile of arms, and seized upon a heavy sword that lay opportunely with others in the entry, and dashed



Scott attacked by two Indian Chiefs.

upon his assailants. They covered before his uplifted blade and determined front and feared to strike. He would have cloven them to the earth, but for the prompt interference of a British officer, who, attracted

by the noise, at that critical moment, came upon the parties, and arrested the affray at the instant our hero was about to inflict summary punishment upon his frightful and ferocious antagonists.

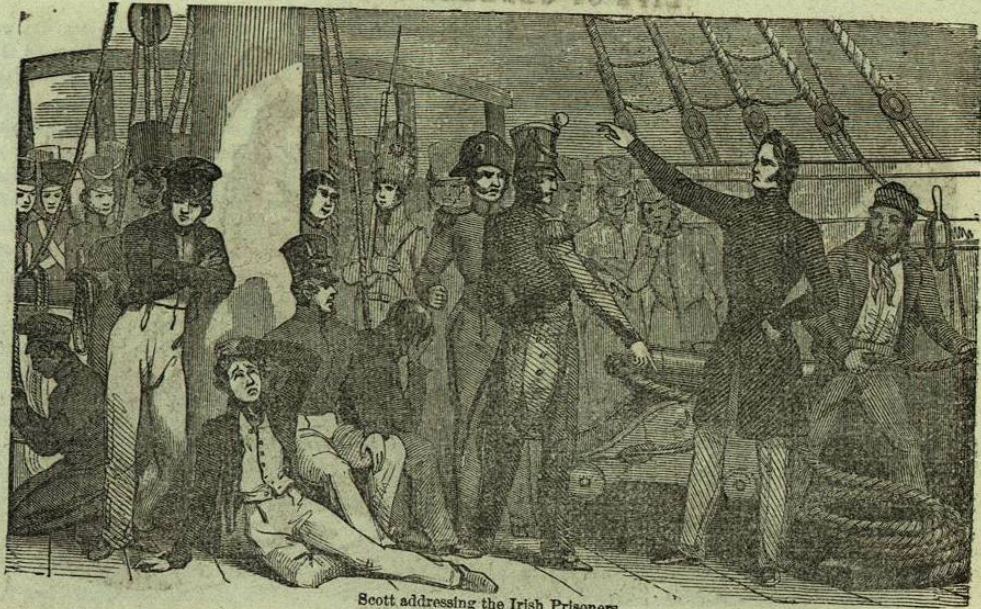
Scott and the Irish Prisoners.

Among the prisoners taken by the British at Queenstown with Scott, were about sixty naturalized citizens, a large portion of whom were Irishmen. The British authorities claimed the right, and expressed the determination, to hang them as traitors. These men were at Quebec on board a vessel with Scott and the rest of the prisoners, all bound to Boston to be exchanged. The British officers came on board and began to select the Irishmen, whom they intended to send home to grace the gallows. The officers had no sure means of detecting the Irish but by their brogue, or their confessions. Scott, who was below, hearing what was going on, immediately rushed on deck, and told his afflicted men to hold their peace. Then, turning to the British officers, he boldly denounced their proceedings, and threatened a like retaliation upon British prisoners if they dared to execute a single man among his comrades.

The officers haughtily reminded him that he was himself a prisoner, and ordered him into the cabin. He was not a man to be intimidated, and refused to go, and again called upon his Irish soldiers to answer no more questions. A high quarrel ensued; but the result was that no more of the prisoners could be identified as Irishmen, for they would not open their lips.

The officers, however, had already selected twenty-three before Scott made his appearance. These were separated from their fellow-prisoners and put on board a frigate, and dispatched to England to be hung. But they did not go until Scott had solemnly warned the British authorities that he would surely avenge the death of every man they dared to lay violent hands upon, by a terrible retribution upon the first English prisoners that should fall into his hands after he should be liberated.

Scott was soon exchanged. How faithfully he kept his promise we shall see. He proceeded at once to Washington and obtained the passage, by Congress, of a law to retaliate upon British prisoners any such outrage as was threatened at Quebec. He again fought and conquered. He had prisoners in plenty. He forthwith selected twenty-three of genuine English descent (for he declared he would not offset Irish by Irish), and held them as hostages for the doomed twenty-three Irishmen taken home to be executed. He then communicated to the British authorities what he had done, and informed them that if they dared to execute their threat on the twenty-three Irishmen, the twenty-three Englishmen should pay the penalty by promptly sharing the same fate. The occu-



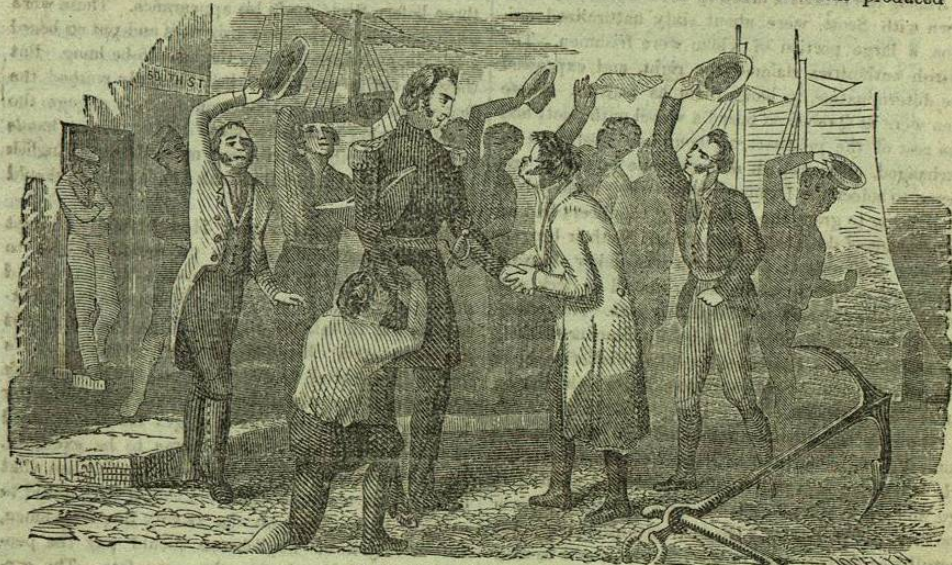
Scott addressing the Irish Prisoners.

sequence was, that the lives of the Irishmen were spared, and at the close of the war they were embarked from England, and shortly after arrived in New York.

Singularly enough, it so happened, that on the very day of the landing of these old comrades of General Scott on the wharf, their commander and friend, then still suffering from his wounds, passed along the quay

on foot. He was instantly recognized by the now liberated prisoners, and knowing of all he had accomplished in their behalf, they rushed upon him with cheers, expressing a fervor of affection, gratitude, and delight, that it is impossible to describe

Their joy was unbounded as the recognition became mutual. He was seized and shaken till the mingled pain of his wounds, and the emotions produced by



Scott meeting the Irish Prisoners.

such a heartfelt exhibition, caused even the tear of stalwart manhood to course unbidden down his cheek. It was with difficulty he escaped from the grasp of these warm-hearted Hibernians, who rightfully re-

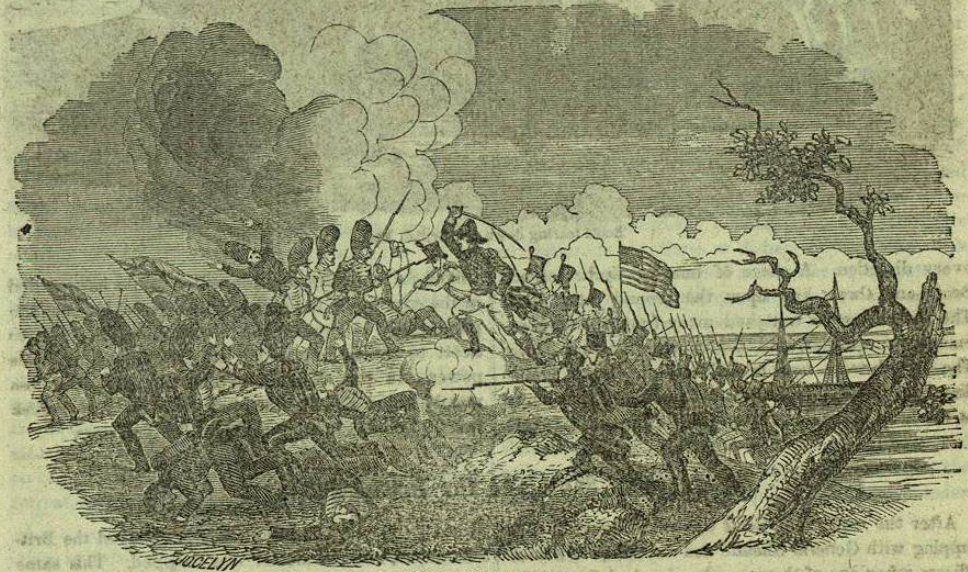
garded him as their fast friend and benefactor, who had saved their lives, and restored them in safety to the land of their adoption. If the Irish have a true friend it is General Scott.

Scott rejoins the Army at Niagara.

Scott rejoined the army at Fort Niagara in the early part of 1813, just after the capture of York, in the capacity of adjutant-general to Dearborn, who was now invested with the chief command. In addition

to the important and laborious duties of his post, Scott insisted upon commanding his own regiment on all occasions of peril and hardship, a request that his commander-in-chief did not fail to grant.

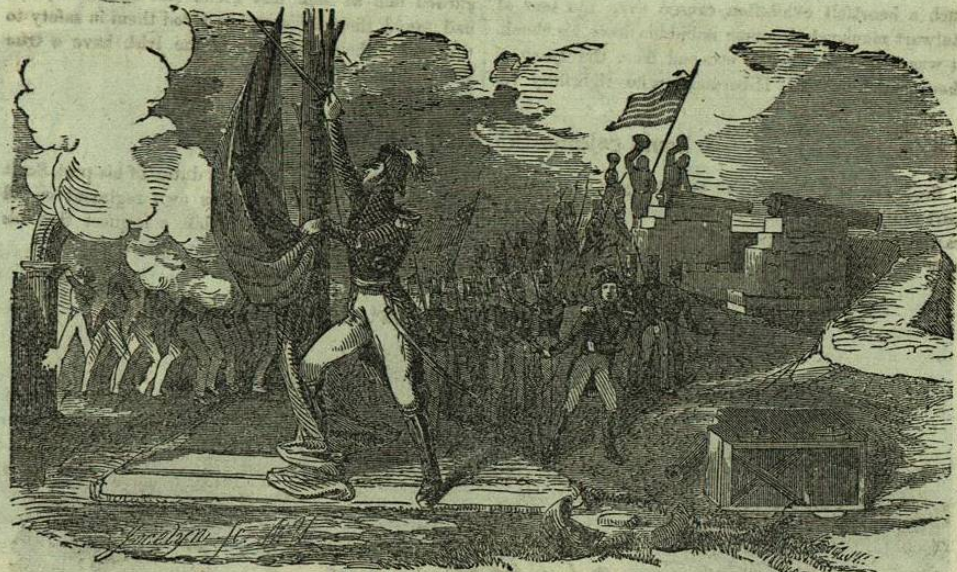
Battle and Capture of Fort George.



Battle of Fort George.

On the British side opposite to the position occupied by the American troops, lay Fort George, the key of the peninsula lying between Lakes Erie and Ontario. This position Dearborn determined to carry. The columns detailed for this purpose embarked in six divisions. Scott led the advance. Captain (afterward Commodore) Perry superintended the debarkation of the troops, which was covered by the little fleet of Commodore Chauncey. Colonel Scott effected his landing on the British shore at 9 o'clock in the morning in good order. The enemy was fifteen hundred strong, and posted on a bank above, that was from seven to twelve feet in height. Scott formed his line on the beach preparatory to scaling the height. In his first attempt to ascend, the severe fire of the enemy repulsed our troops. Scott himself was forced backward on to the beach. Dearborn, who was in the Commodore's vessel, anxiously watching the move-

ments of the troops, seeing with his glass his favorite leader fall, burst into tears, exclaiming "He is lost!— He is killed!" But our hero was neither killed nor vanquished. He recovered himself, and rallying his men, again eagerly pushed forward, sword in hand, upon the enemy. A furious fight ensued, but at the end of twenty minutes the foe gave ground, and fled in dismay before the resistless valor of our young leader. He pursued the flying columns as far as the village, where he was joined by Miller's regiment. In the midst of his pursuit, he assaulted the Fort, forced the gates, and was himself the first to enter. Pressing impetuously forward at the head of his triumphant followers, with his own hand he seized and tore down the British flag that was waving above its walls. The garrison, seeing that resistance was vain, beat a retreat, but not till they had fired their magazines. One of them exploded, scattering its fragments in



Scott tearing down the British Flag.

every direction. A piece of burning timber struck Scott and threw him upon the ground much hurt. The matches were snatched away from the two remaining magazines, and the capture was complete. The British were now in full retreat. Scott immediately remounted and made hot pursuit of the enemy at the head of his detachment. The pursuit was con-

tinued for five miles, and the action would have ended in the capture of the entire British force, but for the peremptory orders of the commanding general to Scott to return, just as he had got the enemy in his power. In this brilliant exploit the American loss was 17 killed and 45 wounded; that of the British was 90 killed, 160 wounded, and 100 prisoners.

Anecdote of Scott and the British Colonel.

After the capture of Scott the year before, he was supping with General Sheaffe and a number of British officers, when one of them, a colonel, asked Scott if he had ever seen the neighboring Falls. Scott replied, "Yes, from the American side." To this the other sarcastically replied, "You must have the glory of a successful fight before you can view the cataract in all its grandeur;" meaning from the Canada shore. Scott rejoined, "If it be your intention to insult me, sir, honor should have first prompted you to return me my

sword!" General Sheaffe promptly rebuked the British colonel, and the matter was dropped. This same colonel was taken prisoner by Scott at Fort George, and treated with great kindness and consideration. This treatment extorted the following remark from the prisoner to his captor, "I have long owed you an apology, sir. You have overwhelmed me with kindnesses. You can now view the Falls in all their grandeur at your leisure."

Scott leads an Expedition to Burlington Heights and York.

For some time after the capture of Fort George, our army lay there intrenched and inactive. The command alternately devolved upon Dearborn, Lewis, Boyd, and Wilkinson. The only active duty discharged was that of foraging, and this was invariably intrusted to Colonel Scott. In the prosecution of this duty, he was constantly engaged in skirmishes with the enemy, but his efforts were always crowned with success. His vigilance, activity, and intrepidity, made

him the hero of many a miniature battle in this partisan warfare, whose details did not rise to historic importance, and which live therefore but in the memory of this gallant commander and those of his heroic comrades, who, like him, have survived the vicissitudes of forty years. In July of this year, Colonel Scott was appointed to the command of a double regiment, and withdrew from his post of adjutant-general. In September, an expedition against Burlington Heights was

planned, and its execution intrusted to Scott. It had been reported that here was a large deposit of military stores. But it turned out there was none, and the force employed on this service, after inspecting the now deserted post, moved upon the enemy at York. Here were found large depots of clothing, pro-

visions, and other military stores, together with several pieces of cannon, and eleven armed boats. All these were captured, and the barracks and public storehouses destroyed; after which the expedition returned to Niagara.

Wilkinson's Descent towards Montreal.

A movement of great importance had now been devised, and its execution intrusted to General Wilkinson. This was to cut off the communication between Upper and Lower Canada, and thus pave the way to effect their conquest. The first object was to take Kingston, and the next to reduce Montreal. The invading forces were to proceed down the River St. Lawrence from Sackett's Harbor. The British troops having evacuated the whole peninsula about Fort George, Scott became impatient of his position as commander at that post, and longed for more active service. He accordingly obtained permission to go with Wilkinson's expedition, which he joined on the 6th of November (1813), near Ogdensburg. Here two battalions were placed under his charge, and the command of the advance-guard again given to him. Proceeding on his way down the river he landed and captured the British Fort Matilda, after a sharp encounter, taking a number of prisoners. On the following day, at the head of a column of 700 men, he came upon an equal force of the enemy, under Colonel Dennis, stationed at Hoopole Creek, to resist his passage. He at once pressed forward under a heavy fire, and attacked the enemy. After a spirited engagement, he routed and drove them before him, following their retreat, and taking many prisoners. Night coming on,

his progress was arrested. While Scott was thus triumphantly prosecuting his way towards Montreal, and rapidly overcoming all obstacles, the imbecility of Wilkinson frustrated the entire expedition. On the day following Scott's successes, orders were given for its abandonment. The little army of Scott, already beginning to reap laurels from its achievements under its active and indomitable leader, was suddenly checked in its incipient career of conquest, and made to turn its back on the enemy. But for that pusillanimous step, Scott would doubtless have gone on triumphantly to Montreal, captured that city, and gloriously effected the conquest of all Upper Canada. Checked as he was by this inglorious termination of the enterprise he was so signally leading on, it did not operate to discourage his efforts or dishearten his spirit. His zeal remained unquenched and his fervor unabated.

With the close of the campaign, a new and important sphere of duty opened upon Colonel Scott. He had thus far been fighting battles; he was now to be called upon to awake a new army into being, whose deeds should efface the remembrance of the spiritless close of the campaign of 1813, and whose prowess should extort the plaudits of admiring millions, and reflect back a new and brilliant radiance upon the head of its accomplished disciplinarian and commander.

Scott organizes a New Army.

The government had now had such a foretaste of Scott's quality, that it became inspired with the highest expectations for the future of the young soldier. The President ordered him to repair to Albany to concert certain important arrangements with Governor Tompkins, and to provide the supplies for the approaching campaign. Having discharged this service, he was next ordered to Buffalo, upon a no less important duty than to organize, discipline, and instruct an army of new recruits, there being mustered into service. On the 9th of March, 1814, he was appointed brigadier-general, by President Madison, at the early age of twenty-seven, and immediately entered upon this important duty. We had heretofore used the Prussian system of tactics; Scott introduced at once

the far more perfect modern French system, and the one we still employ. The new recruits were immediately put under efficient drill. The army was converted into a vast military school, and kept incessantly employed until it was thoroughly trained, and completely fitted for all the exigencies of hard service and a rigorous campaign. Scott labored for months with untiring industry, until he felt assured we had at least one army, fitted to cope with the best troops of Great Britain. He had taken in hand a body of raw militia, without drill and without experience, and at the end of three months had converted them into a well disciplined and invincible corps, which soon showed itself able to conquer the renowned veterans of Wellington himself.

Scott crosses the Niagara Frontier.—Fort Erie Taken.

General Brown, the commander-in-chief of the army, returned to Buffalo the latter part of June. Prepa-

rations were immediately made to invade Canada. Early in the morning of the 3d of July, Scott's brigade,