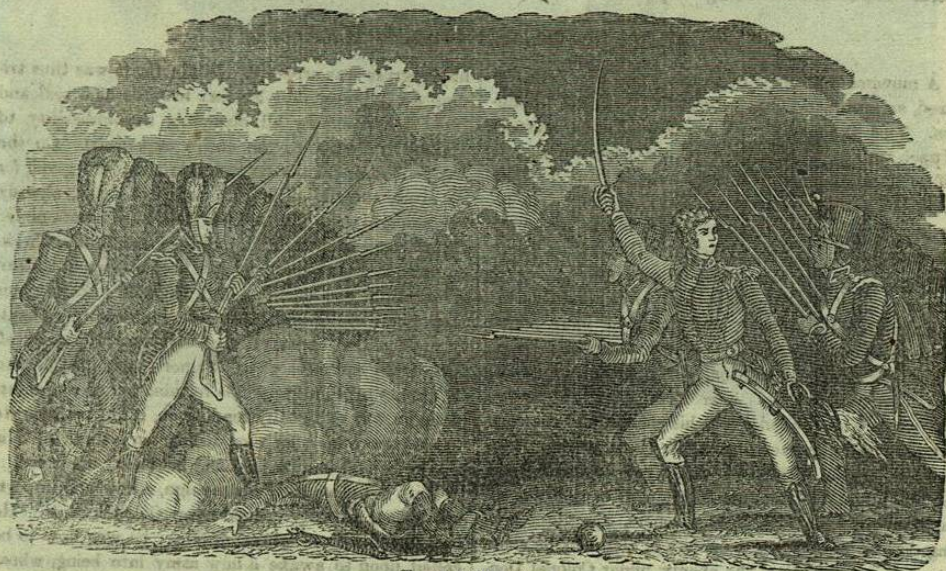


with the artillery corps of Major Hindman, crossed the river and landed below Fort Erie, while Ripley's brigade crossed over and landed above. Scott led

Battle of Chippewa.



Charge at Chippewa.

The residue of the American force was immediately transported across to the English side. The British army, 2,100 strong, under General Riall, was encamped on the Chippewa below, and preparations were immediately made to attack it without delay. Early on the 4th of July Scott set his columns in motion, and rapidly advanced upon the British position. He came upon the advanced posts of the enemy, under the Marquis of Tweeddale, who attacked, but was unable to retard the progress of our troops. Scott assailed and drove back Tweeddale's detachment upon the main body of the enemy. The whole of the 4th of July was thus passed by Scott in a march of sixteen miles, and in driving in the British outposts. At night Scott took up his quarters at Sweet's Creek, about two miles from the enemy's encampment. Between the two armies lay the long level plain of Chippewa, the battle-field of the succeeding day. Face to face the two armies encamped for the night. The morning of the 5th broke clear and glorious. The sun mounted high in the heavens, pouring his fierce beams upon the plain below. On one side of it ran the river, and on the other stood a dense forest. The force of the Americans under Scott was 1,900 strong. The enemy, commanded by General Riall, numbered 2,100 men. Of Riall's force, at least 1,600 were the

veteran troops of the Peninsular war, the flower of the British army. The remaining 500 were dragoons and well-trained militia. Scott's men had never seen service. The British were a well-trying and hitherto conquering soldiery, possessing the advantage of a decided superiority of numbers, and the prestige of invincibility. But the daring and zealous young American general courted the unequal strife. Filled with martial ardor, and an uncalculating intrepidity, that only sought the opportunity to wipe out the memory of previous disaster and imbecility, and to exalt the glory of his country, he mailed himself for the conflict. His hopes beat high in the confidence of a spirit that felt determined to wrest reluctant victory from its favorite standard. In this hardy temper of soul he led forth his troops upon the plain. The British commander, in full reliance upon the invincibility of his men, anticipated his antagonist's determination, and came forth to meet him. The day had passed in skirmishes. At five o'clock in the afternoon the combatants drew up in battle array. The Americans coolly and steadily advanced in line, stretching across the plain from the river to the wood. The British force, in similar order, supported by a battery of nine cannon, confronted our ranks. The attack was simultaneous and vehement on both sides, along the whole

the van. Fort Erie surrendered at discretion, and 170 prisoners fell into our hands.

line. The hostile armies, under a destructive fire, continued to approach until they were within eighty yards of one another, each manifesting the utmost coolness and the most determined courage. Shoulder to shoulder the American troops advanced, bravely meeting and falling before the iron tempest hurled in their faces by the steady masses of the practiced foe. The young and gallant leader was everywhere along the line encouraging and animating his troops, and displaying an activity, an enthusiasm, and a fearless disregard of danger, that inspired and electrified his little army. While the battle raged in yet uncertain fury, the British line was observed to become in a measure broken, in consequence of its right wing having been retarded in its advance by the wood, where it had come into conflict with Jessup's battalion. Scott seized upon the favorable moment with the eye of a veteran general, and by a skilful military manœuvre directed the whole force of his attack upon the now weakened centre of the enemy. The swift-

ness and fierceness of this movement, backed by a murderous fire of our artillery, caused the enemy's line to waver. At this critical moment he gave the order to "charge bayonet!" The onset was terrible. The British columns were borne down and crushed by the irresistible vigor of this desperate assault. They broke and fled in confusion, amid terrible slaughter. Scott followed up his advantage with masterly activity, and pursued his routed adversary over the plain into his intrenchments. The numbers who fell in this hard-fought engagement show it to be one of extraordinary severity. The loss of the British in killed and wounded was 503, or almost one-fourth of their entire force. That of the Americans was 327.

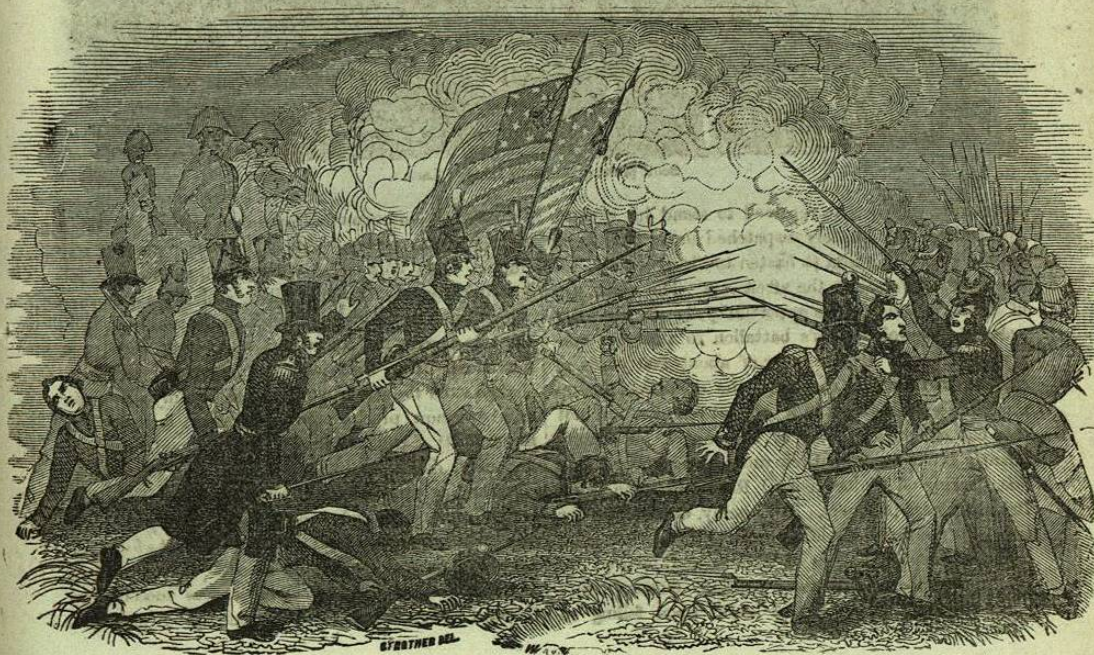
Scott's reputation rose high with this conflict. He had now fought a regular pitched battle on an open field, with inferior numbers, against the best troops of the enemy, and won it by hard fighting and superior strategy.

Pursuit of the Enemy.

On the 7th of July, only two days after the battle of Chippewa, the American army again advanced, in order to get possession of Fort George and Burlington Heights. Scott forced the passage of the Chippewa, compelling Riall to retreat upon the latter position.

But the works were found to be impregnable to our means of attack. But Scott was not to be idle. He was destined to be soon victor in another even more desperate and bloody encounter.

Battle of Lundy's Lane.

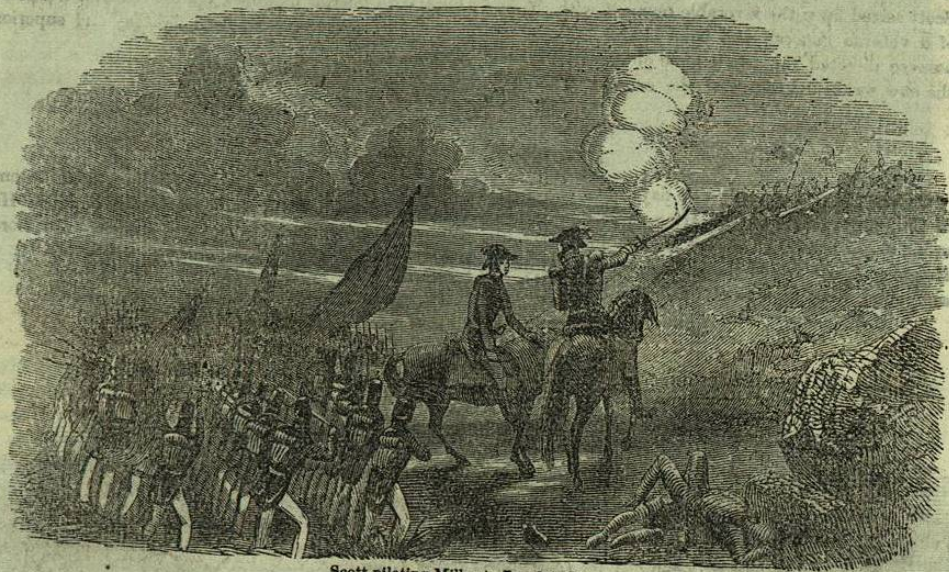


Battle of Lundy's Lane.

On the 25th of July Major-general Brown received the false intelligence that Riall had so far recovered from his late defeat as to throw across to the American shore, from Lewiston (nine miles below Chippewa), a corps of 1,000 men. He immediately determined upon making a demonstration against the fort below, in order to compel Riall to return. Scott, at the head of his brigade, now reduced by his losses to about 1,300 men, immediately set forth on this errand. But he soon found himself with hotter work on hand. He had proceeded but about two miles when he fell upon a reconnoitering party of the enemy, and then for the first time ascertained that a large body of their troops were posted in the immediate neighborhood. Pressing on, he came into the presence of a well-

stationed force under General Riall, about 1,300 strong who at once opened upon Scott a destructive fire of musketry and of nine pieces of artillery. The entire body of the enemy were drawn up on a ridge in order of battle. His right rested on a wood, and his left on a road running parallel with the river. Directly in front, and between the combatants, lay Lundy's Lane. Scott discovered soon after his arrival, that General Riall was being reinforced by three battalions under General Drummond, and that his numbers had been swelled to about 3,000 men.

Finding himself thus surprised into a battle against such immense odds, he might well have determined to retire and await the arrival of reinforcements under General Brown before going into action. But with



Scott piloting Miller to Lundy's Lane.

undaunted purpose he resolved to stand his ground. He however immediately dispatched an aid to General Brown requesting him to hasten to his assistance. It was now six o'clock in the afternoon. The quick eye of Scott discovering the opportunity, he immediately ordered General Jessup's battalion to turn the enemy's left flank. Under cover of about 200 yards of under-growth, which concealed the operation, Jessup accomplished his object in a brilliant manner, and not only cut off the left wing of the enemy, but triumphantly broke through their ranks and returned into line, bearing off Major-General Riall and some other British officers prisoners. The enemy, outflanking our troops on the right, made a powerful attempt, backed by murderous discharges of cannon, and favored by superior numbers, to turn our position. General Scott perceiving the attempt, and intent upon foiling so

threatening a movement, dispatched McNeil's battalion to repulse the enemy. A most obstinate conflict, conducted upon both sides with great vehemence, followed. The assailants recoiled, and were punished with dreadful severity. Meantime the main battle of the two centres had joined and was fought with great fierceness. The American line sustained with unshaken valor the whole weight of the enemy's superior numbers, now precipitated upon them with a fiery impetuosity. Our gallant band, though suffering prodigiously, displayed unconquerable resolution. The commanding presence and heroic example of their intrepid commander, who, regardless of all peril, with unwearied vigor, was foremost in every post of danger nerved them to unparalleled efforts. The battalions of Scott on this occasion, before he was succored by General Brown, were dreadfully cut up. Night came

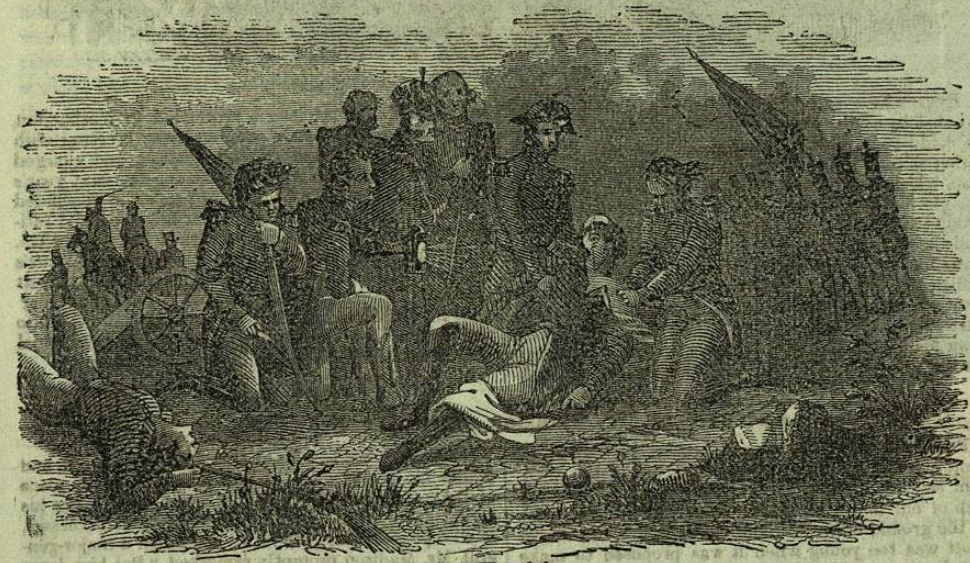
on, and beneath the uncertain light of the moon, wading deep through the broken clouds, the desperate strife was continued. General Scott had had two horses killed under him, and been wounded in the side by a bullet. But in nowise subdued, he rushed into the contest on foot, and continued to the end in the thickest of the fight.

The British infantry continued to pour their deadly fire upon our weakened ranks, and their artillery, posted in a commanding position, on the crest of a neighboring height, which commanded the whole field of battle, at every discharge, thundered death upon our devoted columns. At length, at nine o'clock at night, after three hours of this deadly struggle on the part of General Scott, General Brown arrived upon the ground with his reinforcement. The enemy which, with vastly superior numbers, had barely withstood the determined bravery of General Scott's little army, and only maintained itself in the centre under the guns of the artillery, was now obliged to yield. The regiment of the heroic Miller was deputed to the perilous service of silencing the British battery on the

heights. General Scott volunteered to lead the way, and did so, through the darkness, up to the point of attack. He then returned to favor Miller's movement, and made another onset upon the British line, in which his battalion suffered even more than before. After a series of desperate hand-to-hand encounters, Miller was successful, and the batteries were silenced.

Under the renewed furious charges of our troops the enemy were now forced to retire, and abandon the field to the Americans. In one of the last of these charges, just at the close of the action, amid terrible fighting, Scott was severely wounded, and had to be borne from the field. This engagement incontestably established the bravery of our troops, and the reputation of General Scott as an officer. The battle was fought with desperate energy on both sides, and the losses, considering the numbers engaged, were prodigious. General Scott's brigade, upon which fell the brunt of the battle, lost 463 of its 1,300 men; a far greater proportion of our troops than fell at Buena Vista. The total loss of the Americans in killed and wounded was 743. That of the British, 726.

Scott badly Wounded.



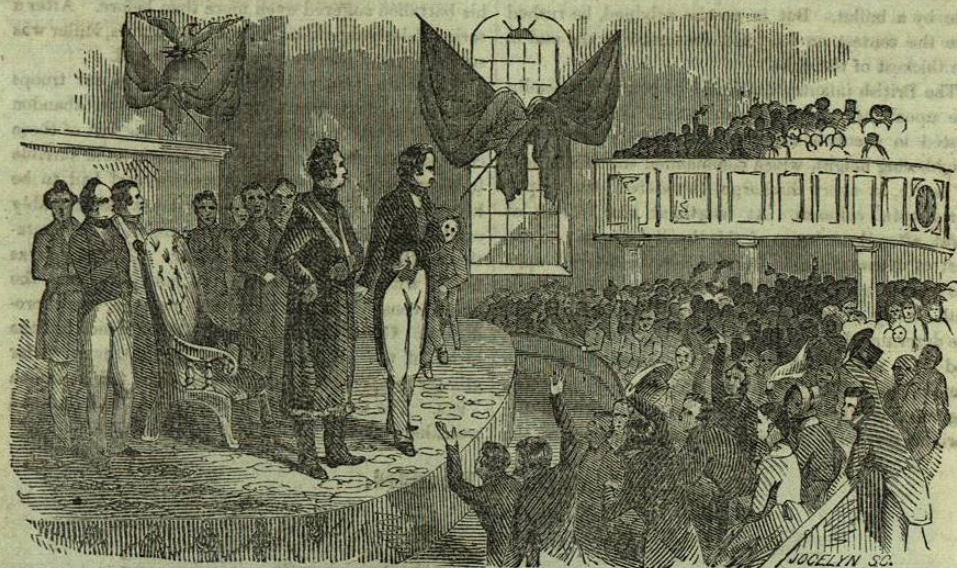
Scott Wounded.

The victory of Lundy's Lane was dearly won. In addition to our other great losses, Scott himself was dangerously wounded. His shoulder was shattered, and a bullet was in his side; and for a month he lay in a most critical state, enduring intense suffering. From the wounds he received in this battle he has never fully recovered. British lead is in his body, which he will carry with him to his grave. Others have won deserved renown in the service of their coun-

try, but no one ever perilled his life, or shed his blood more freely in its cause, than General Scott. In his country's greatest need he has proved himself ready for the greatest sacrifices a patriot can be called to make.

After the action, Scott was borne on a litter to Buffalo, thence to Williamstown, and afterwards to Geneva. After recovering sufficiently, he slowly journeyed towards Philadelphia, whither he repaired for further surgical aid.

His Triumphant Receptions and Promotion.



Scott at Princeton.

Everywhere as he passed, the victorious hero was greeted by all the public honors and private attentions he could bear. Princeton, in particular, met the suffering soldier with the honors of an academic reception, which was rendered all the more dear to him by the glorious recollections of the revolution that cluster around that spot. At Philadelphia, Governor Snyder and the citizens welcomed him with military and civic parades. After a short stay at that city, he recovered sufficiently to be able to proceed to Baltimore, whither he went at the request of the government, and the particular solicitations of the members of Congress from Maryland and Pennsylvania, to direct measures for the defence of that city and Philadelphia. Finish-

Anecdote of Mr. Madison on Scott's Promotion.

President Madison, though early persuaded of Scott's great qualities, nevertheless, out of the abundant caution of his nature, always hesitated at every step of our hero's promotion (till it came to the last), on the ground of his extreme youth. Thus he thought Scott was too young when it was proposed to make him lieutenant-colonel, too young when he was again advanced to the post of adjutant-general, too young

Scott goes to Europe on a Public Mission.

The enfeebled state of his health, and the desire of still further professional improvement, suggesting a trip to Europe, the government now gave General Scott a double commission abroad. First, to examine the improvements of military science; and second, to conduct certain secret negotiations in regard to the independence of South America, and the supposed designs of England upon Cuba. He acquitted himself

ing this duty, he at length proceeded to Washington, where he arrived in October, and was invested with the command of that military district, and charged with the responsible duty of planning the next year's campaigns. Happily a treaty of peace was concluded at Ghent on the 24th of December following, and ratified by our government on the 15th of February, 1815. After this event, there being no further need of Scott's services in the field, President Madison offered him, at the early age of 28, the post of Secretary of War. This he declined. He had been previously raised to the rank of major-general by brevet, as a testimonial of his great services and brilliant military career.

when he was made colonel of a double regiment, and finally too young when he was promoted to the place of brigadier-general. But at the last, when, after his recent extraordinary services, and brilliant successes, it was proposed in Cabinet to make him a major-general, Mr. Madison promptly remarked, "Put him down a major-general—I am done with objecting to his youth."

of these latter delicate duties much to the satisfaction of his government. He examined the chief military establishments of Western Europe, held intercourse with its most distinguished military men, and attended the scientific lectures of the schools of tactics. Arriving just after the battle of Waterloo, his opportunities to master the views and learn the experience of the most distinguished European professors of military

science, most of whom had now congregated upon the soil of France and England, in their gigantic efforts to overwhelm Napoleon, were unsurpassed. Fresh from the fields of his own triumphs, and with the war spirit still at its full height, we may suppose our young hero acquired a stock of intelligence, bearing upon his profession, that years of ordinary experience could not have given him. He brought over with him whatever could tend to improve our system of tactics, or be

made useful to the military arm of our government. To his efforts then and afterward, we owe, in a great measure, that system of discipline and instruction to which we are mainly indebted, in conjunction with his own unrivalled military knowledge and skill, for our recent Mexican victories. On his return, he was placed in command of the eastern division of the army, with New York for his head-quarters. In 1817 he married Miss Mayo of Richmond.

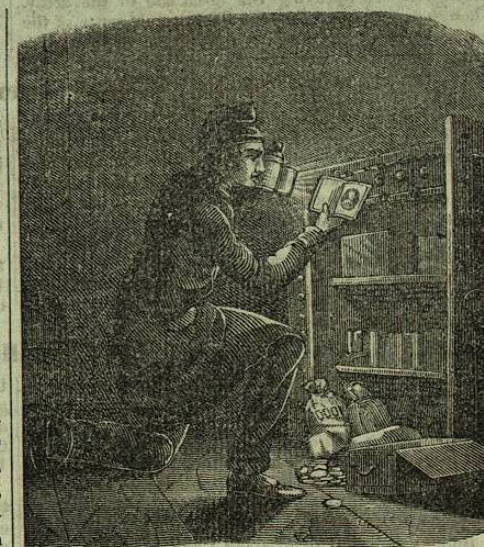
Vote of Thanks by Congress, New York, and Virginia.

Meantime Congress had passed a vote of thanks for the eminent services of this illustrious commander, and voted him a large gold medal, inscribed with the names of "Chippewa" and "Niagara," and bearing his likeness. The States of New York and Virginia likewise bestowed a similar high compliment, by votes of thanks, and by making him valuable gifts. Each of

these states presented him with a sword of the richest workmanship. Governor Tompkins, of New York, made a public presentation of the sword given by New York, and, in his address on the occasion, observed that it was presented to him by the state, in token of its admiration of "a military career replete with splendid events."

Anecdote of the Gold Medal and the Robber.

A singular incident is connected with the gold medal presented to General Scott by Congress. It was at one time deposited for safe-keeping in the vault of the City Bank of New York. A noted robber, breaking into the safe, carried off from thence every thing that was valuable, but spared this token of public honor, in evident respect for the brave soldier's only wealth. The case of the medal was found open, but retaining its precious contents untouched. Not even a whole life of crime had been able to extinguish in that felon's breast, a feeling of patriotic admiration for his country's best soldier. Alas! if ever the general admiration and gratitude of his countrymen shall seek to reward General Scott's great services by the bestowal of the highest office in their gift, will there be found those so lost to all sense of national pride, of justice and honor, as to try to rob him of his well-earned fame, by the calumnious tongue of partisan warfare? We trust not! For the sake of our national reputation, the claims of patriotism, and the demands of justice, we trust not! Let the eager spirit of detraction hesitate, as it reflects upon that pure renown which even the robber respected!



Robber and Medal.

Anecdote of Scott and the Pickpockets.

Long after the foregoing occurrence, General Scott, in travelling by steamboat from Albany to New York, had his pocket picked of a purse containing eight hundred dollars in gold. On arriving at New York, the general advertised his loss. His money was sent back to him by the head thief of the city, with a respectful assurance that none of his people would have touched

the general's purse if they had known his person. Thus does the human heart, though steeled to crime, recognize the claims of a generous, gallant, and chivalric nature. Such occurrences are significant intimations of the strong hold which this truly noble man has upon the hearts of his countrymen.

Establishes our Military System.

We owe to General Scott, in a great degree, our existing military system. It was first introduced by him, in preparing our army at Buffalo for the heroic deeds soon after achieved at Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. Subsequently it was introduced into the whole service. In 1821 he published a work embodying his system and plans of discipline and instruction, under

the title of "*General Regulations for the Army.*" In 1825, following up his design of still further improvements, he published his "*Infantry Tactics.*" And again, in 1826, he drew up for the War Department, "*A Plan for the Organization and Instruction of the whole body of the Militia of the Union;*" and also, "*A System of Infantry and Rifle Tactics.*" In 1835, he