

thousand ships manned with veteran crews, while the United States had but twelve men-of-war, and some of them had been hastily and imperfectly manned.¹ But in the first decisive engagement we gained such a signal victory that we took heart and prepared for greater enterprises. One of our warships, the *Constitution*, commanded by Captain Isaac Hull,² while cruising in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, fell in with the English warship *Guerrière*. (The *Guerrière*, after an engagement lasting about an hour, surrendered.) The prisoners were taken to Boston, and Captain Hull and his officers were feasted at Faneuil Hall. The *Constitution*, after this victory, was named *Old Ironsides*, and became a famous ship.³

391. Continuation of the Contest on the Sea.— Our next important victory was gained by the sloop-of-war *Wasp*. This vessel, cruising off the coast of North Carolina, fell in with a fleet of English merchantmen under the convoy of the brig *Frolic*. The *Frolic* was much better armed and equipped than the *Wasp*, but after a desperate encounter the Americans boarded the English ship, and themselves hauled down the English colors. The firing had hardly ceased when a powerful English man-of-war appeared in sight, and it at once took possession of the *Wasp* and its prizes. But the moral effect of the *Wasp's* victory against such odds remained to encourage our seamen. And, indeed, the effect was soon to be seen. Our captains attacked English vessels against great odds; and fights occurred between English and American vessels all along our coast, and even in the waters of the Gulf and on the South American coast. The Americans were

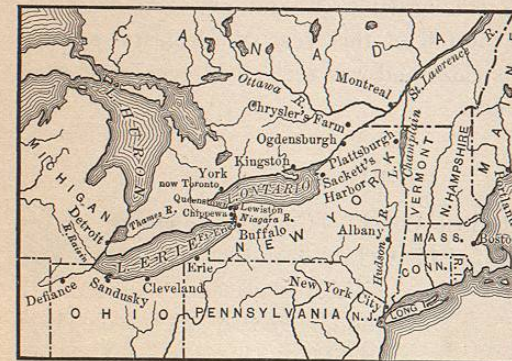
¹ "The American navy consisted of twelve vessels, the largest of which were the three 44-gun frigates *United States*, *Constitution*, and *President*. The British navy was composed of 830 vessels, of which 230 were larger than any of the American ships." Prof. A. B. Hart, "Formation of the Union."

² Captain Hull was a nephew of the General Hull who had failed so signally at Detroit, and was a brave and efficient officer.

³ See Oliver Wendell Holmes's poem, "Old Ironsides."

almost uniformly successful. During the year almost three hundred prizes, carrying valuable cargoes and manned by more than three thousand men, were captured by American cruisers. All Europe was greatly astonished at our success in fighting the "Mistress of the Seas," and England herself was astounded.

392. The Invasion of Canada.— While our ships were so fortunately engaged upon the ocean, another invasion of Canada



was attempted. General Van Rensselaer led a body of troops to the Niagara frontier of New York and prepared to cross over into Canada. Colonel Van Rensselaer with a thousand

men did cross over, and in a sharp engagement dislodged the English from Queenstown Heights, and took possession of the batteries.¹ The English, however, sent for reënforcements, and as the American militiamen who remained on the New York side would not go over to succor their gallant comrades,² after severe losses, Colonel Van Rensselaer was obliged to surrender. General Van Rensselaer, disgusted with troops so independent and undisciplined, resigned command, and was replaced with General Smyth, of Virginia. General Smyth issued some fiery proclamations, and made a show of a dashing campaign;

¹ Colonel Van Rensselaer was wounded as his forces were trying to effect a landing on the Canadian side, and the Americans were led by subordinate officers. General Brock, to whom General Hull had surrendered at Detroit, was still in command of the English troops in the attempt to retake Queenstown.

² These militiamen insisted that they had joined the army to protect the American border, but not to invade foreign territory.

but in the end he proved absolutely ineffective, and was removed after the fall had passed away and nothing had been accomplished. The invasion of Canada was, so far, a dismal failure.

393. Madison's Reëlection. — The Federal party generally, and the members of it in New England in particular, were strongly opposed to the continuance of the war; but the Republican party was committed to it, and was enthusiastic in prosecuting it. In the fall of this year Madison was renominated by the Republicans, and was reëlected, receiving 128 of the 217 electoral votes.

1813.

394. Off the Atlantic Coast. — Captain Lawrence of the *Hornet*, as a reward for his victory over the British brig *Peacock*,¹ was placed in command of the *Chesapeake*, one of our best frigates. The ship was laid up in Boston harbor to be repaired and refitted. The crew had not yet been trained and disciplined for their duties, several of the sailors were sick, and there was much dissatisfaction because of delayed pay. But Lawrence had been made over-confident by previous success, and in this poor condition he sailed out of the harbor and attacked the British frigate *Shannon*. A dreadful combat ensued, in which both



James Lawrence.

¹ The sloop-of-war *Hornet*, commanded by Captain Lawrence, and the British brig *Peacock* had a terrific battle of a few minutes. The *Peacock* was disabled and struck her colors. The brig was damaged more than was thought and sank suddenly, engulfing nine British seamen and three Americans.

ships suffered severely, and in which Lawrence was mortally wounded. As the brave captain was carried below decks, with almost his last breath he cried to his men, "Don't give up the ship." Victory rested with the English, however, and the *Shannon*, greatly damaged, towed the shattered *Chesapeake* to Halifax, where Lawrence was buried with military honors.¹

395. Plans for the Invasion of Canada. — The land forces were this year organized in three divisions: The Army of the North, under General Hampton, was to march by way of Lake Champlain; the Army of the Center, under the command of Major-General Dearborn, was to take the old Niagara course; the Army of the West, under General Harrison, was to recover Michigan for us and again invade Canada by the way of Detroit. All these armies were to be aided by a greatly strengthened navy of the Lakes. Let us examine the western movement first.

396. The Raisin River Massacre. — An advance force of General Harrison's army drove a body of English and Indians out of Frenchtown, on the Raisin River, and captured the town. (See map, p. 253.) Shortly afterward a large force of English and Indians, under Colonel Proctor, returned to Frenchtown and attacked the Americans. Under a pledge of protection, our forces surrendered. Colonel Proctor immediately returned to Malden, and left the prisoners at the mercy of the savages. A large proportion of the captives were killed by tomahawk, knife, or fire, while some of them were dragged to Detroit and sold to Americans for heavy ransoms.

397. Fort Meigs. — General Harrison, checked by the Raisin River misfortune, built Fort Meigs (Fort Defiance on map) on the Maumee and retired to it. Here he was besieged by a large force of British and Indians, under General Proctor

¹ His remains now rest in Trinity churchyard, New York City.

and Tecumseh. During the siege a detachment of a relief party of Kentuckians was cut off from the main body and cruelly massacred after the manner of the Frenchtown outrage. But the attacking party was obliged to abandon the siege. It retired to Malden. In the latter part of July Proctor and Tecumseh, with a force twice as large as before, returned to the siege. Failing to take the fort and also to entice the Americans into the open, General Proctor took part of his force and marched away to attack Fort Stephenson (Sandusky on map). This fort was defended by one hundred and sixty men, under Captain Crogan, a young man just twenty-one. Upon the demand to surrender, the gallant captain answered that he would defend the fort so long as there was a man alive within its walls. Cannonading producing no important effect, the English made an assault to carry the fort by storm. The only gun the fort contained had been masked in position to control the trench that surrounded the walls; the attacking party, when it came within range, was almost entirely swept away by a charge from this single gun. After this deadly repulse, General Proctor, fearing that he would be attacked by a relief party under General Harrison, again retired to Malden.

398. **The Victory on Lake Erie.** — In September of this year, Captain Perry with a fleet of nine vessels, five of which he had just built on the shore of Lake Erie, sailed out into the lake and engaged an English fleet. Perry's own ship, the *Lawrence*, bearing the flag, "Don't give up the ship," was so cut to pieces that it had to be abandoned. Perry had to pass by some of the enemy's ships in reaching the *Niagara* of his own fleet. He carried his flag in one hand,



and in an open boat made a near and conspicuous target for the fire of the enemy. But he made the passage safely. In a few minutes after Perry reached the *Niagara* the fight was over, and the brave young captain returned to the shattered *Lawrence* to receive the surrender of the English fleet. Perry's despatch, describing the contest, was as brief and absolute in its way as the combat had been in another way:

— "We have met the enemy and they are ours — two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop."¹ The victory gave us control of Lake Erie.



Oliver Hazard Perry.

399. **The Thames Victory.** — General Harrison was quick to seize the advantage of Perry's victory; he immediately crossed the lake to attack the English and Indians at Malden. He found Malden deserted, however, Proctor and Tecumseh having retreated with their forces. The Americans entered on a hot pursuit, and overtook the enemy at the Thames river. In the battle that ensued the British were defeated and obliged to surrender. Colonel Proctor escaped by flight. Tecumseh was shot during the battle, and the Indians fled in confusion. The western movement resulted in clearing Lake Erie, recovering Michigan, and administering a severe defeat to the enemy on his own soil. Captain Perry and General Harrison became the heroes of the nation.

¹ The British had fewer vessels, but better ones, and more men, and more but smaller guns. The English captain was one of Nelson's veterans, while Perry had never seen a naval engagement in his life.

400. The Movement in the East. — The armies of the Center and of the North gained us no important victories. The Army of the Center embarked from Sackett's Harbor and crossed the lake for the purpose of capturing Toronto. In this movement they were successful, capturing the town, taking many prisoners and securing much valuable property. The army then returned to Sackett's Harbor to find that it had been attacked in their absence, but successfully defended by the garrison left there. Late in the next month (May) the army again crossed to the Canadian side and took some minor posts. But this time they were attacked by a large English force, and had enough to do to defend themselves. A plan was now formed to unite the armies of the Center and of the North and attack Montreal. The Army of the Center sailed down the St. Lawrence to make the junction.¹ The troops were disembarked at St. Regis, where it was expected the Army of the North would soon join them. But the Army of the North had not moved, and the plan to invade Canada by this route had to be abandoned for the season.

401. On the Sea. — The contest was waged upon the sea more fiercely, perhaps, than upon land. But on the American side there was small equipment and little organization, our successes coming from the courage and enterprise of our seamen. Many English merchantmen were captured. But the English were quick to retaliate, and often went beyond just bounds in trying to punish us. They captured some of our men-of-war. Several defenseless villages along Chesapeake Bay were wantonly bombarded and destroyed. The Carolina and Virginia coasts were ravaged after the manner in which freebooters would conduct a campaign.

¹ In order to drive away the British and Indians, who were gathering in bands along the river bank to obstruct the progress of the fleet, a force was landed, and an engagement resulted. There were heavy losses on both sides — about three hundred on the American side — and nothing decisive gained.

402. The Creek Uprising. — The Creek Indians, a powerful tribe in Alabama, incited to violence by Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, fell upon the garrison at Fort Mimms and massacred more than four hundred people, sparing neither men, women, nor children. Immediate preparations were made by the southwestern states to march against the Indians. General Jackson, with a force of Tennesseans, was the first in the field. He drove the Indians before him, defeated them in several hard-fought battles, and burned one of their villages. Finally the Indian forces concentrated for a great battle, and the engagement took place at Horseshoe Bend,¹ on a branch of the Alabama River (January 27, 1814). The Indians suffered a bloody defeat, and surrendered to Jackson on his own terms.

1814.

403. The Last Invasion of Canada. — July 3, Generals Scott and Ripley, leading the Army of the Center, crossed the Niagara river into Canada. They met the English force near Chippewa, and a hotly contested battle ensued. The English were defeated, and retreated down the river to Queenstown. In sight of Niagara Falls, General Scott, with a division of the army, met the English forces again. General Scott, though greatly outnumbered, heroically held his position until reënforced by the other divisions. The fighting was desperate and very destructive to both sides. The Americans distinguished themselves by daring generalship and dogged endurance. The English were at last driven from the field with a loss of nearly a thousand men; the American losses were nearly as great. The Americans had much the smaller force.

404. The Siege of Fort Erie. — The Americans fell back to Fort Erie. Soon the English, reënforced, moved forward and invested the fort. About the middle of September, after hav-

¹ Sam Houston, afterward prominent in Texas history, was wounded in this battle.

ing besieged the fort for more than a month, the English, hearing that a division of the Army of the North was on the way to the relief of the fort, raised the siege and retired to Fort George. Early in November the Americans burned Fort Erie, and recrossed the Niagara and went into winter quarters.

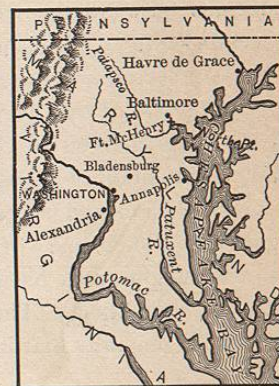


405. The Battle of Lake Champlain. — When the division of the Army of the North was taken to the relief of Fort Erie about fifteen hundred troops were left to hold Plattsburgh, on Lake Champlain. Hearing of the reduced force at Plattsburgh, the

English decided to seize the opportunity to get control of Lake Champlain. General Prevost, with fourteen thousand men, marched into New York to attack Plattsburgh, while an English fleet was to attack Commodore McDonough's squadron on the lake.¹ Fighting began on the lake first, and the Americans achieved a signal victory; several of the English ships surrendered, but some of the smaller ones fled, and escaped pursuit because our own ships were too badly damaged to chase them. In the meantime, the small land force had held the fourteen thousand English veterans in check, and when the news of the American victory on the lake reached the English general he retreated under the enthusiastic charge of the rejoicing militia, leaving his sick and wounded and his military stores, and made haste to get back into Canada.

¹ The English squadron had more men and more guns. One of McDonough's vessels had just been built, within twenty days, on the bank of the lake.

406. Along the Coast. — The blockade which had been put upon the southern coast the previous year was now extended to the northern coast. Several small towns near the seaboard had been captured and destroyed. In August a British fleet¹ of twenty-one vessels reached our country and landed on the Maryland shore an army of five thousand men, whose purpose was to capture Washington. A force of militia and marines was put forward to intercept them, but it was defeated. The English suddenly appeared at the capitol, captured the president's dinner, which he had just left, and came near capturing the president himself. The capitol buildings and some private residences were burned. General Ross, who commanded the land force, then marched his army against Baltimore, and instructed the fleet to bombard Fort Henry, Baltimore's protection from attacks by sea. The land force was checked in its march by a determined body of militia, and in a preliminary skirmish General Ross himself was killed. The British men-of-war bombarded Fort Henry all day and part of the night without doing serious damage.² The troops then reëmbarked, the siege was raised, and the squadron sailed away.



¹ Admiral Cockburn, who commanded this fleet, was a vandal and a barbarian. He stood in the speaker's chair in the capitol, waved his hat and gave the command to burn the building, which contained the precious records of the new nation. He burned defenseless villages, and even country houses occupied only by women. See Coffin's "Building of the Nation."

² Francis S. Key, detained on board an English man-of-war, watching by the flashes of the guns the flag that waved on Fort Henry, composed the "Star-Spangled Banner."

407. The Hartford Convention.—New England had bitterly opposed the methods pursued during the progress of the war, and now that the blockade had extended to its own ports, that the capitol had been burned and nothing was secure, it felt willing to resort to strong measures. At the suggestion of the Massachusetts Legislature a convention was called, and delegates from all the New England states met at Hartford December 15. The discussions of this convention have forever been secret, and the official record of its proceedings was not made public by the convention itself. The Republican party openly charged the convention with treasonable purposes, with the intention of advising the states represented to secede from the Union and make peace with England, or proffer allegiance to the enemy. If these charges were without foundation they might easily have been disproven, but no effort was made to refute them. The convention was so condemned by the people generally that it ruined the Federalist party.¹

408. Peace.—Both sides were tired of the conflict, and neither side had gained anything decisive. The treaty signed at Ghent, December 24, was as negative in its nature as the war had been. Nothing for which the war had been fought was mentioned in the treaty; the two nations, tired of war, did little more than agree to peace. However, the moral and substantial victories were with us in reality, although they were not formally mentioned in the terms of the treaty. Since that day England has never confiscated our ships, nor impressed our seamen, nor blockaded our ports. We demonstrated to the world that American seamen were equal in every way to English seamen, and were better gunners. And we proved to all interested parties that any attempt to establish a foreign power on our territory would meet with disastrous failure.

¹ A representative was sent from the convention to confer with the president, but peace was declared before the conference could take place.

409. Battle of New Orleans.—Although the treaty of peace had been signed on December 24, on January 8 one of the bloodiest battles of the war was fought at New Orleans. We had no telegraph then, and the news of the treaty did not reach us till after the battle. The British made great preparations for the conquest of Louisiana. A fleet of fifty vessels, carrying twelve thousand men, under command of General Pakenham, sailed to attack New Orleans. General Jackson, who, after his victory over the Creeks, had been placed in command of the Army of the South, hastened to defend the city. Jackson had but six thousand men, but they were well protected behind breastworks. The English made one assault after another on these extemporized defenses, but they were repulsed with heavy losses every time. Their general and many of their chief officers were killed. Their losses amounted to twenty-six hundred men. The Americans had but eight men killed and thirteen wounded.

410. Admission of States.—The Territory of Orleans, which was the southern part of the Louisiana purchase, was admitted to the Union in 1812 under the name of Louisiana, making the eighteenth state. The northern part of the territory was thereafter called Missouri. Indiana, the second state from the Northwest Territory, was admitted in 1816.

411. Summary.—The new president and his advisers were unable to make satisfactory terms with England. England prohibited trade with France, and France prohibited trade with England. The English searched our vessels, captured our seamen and forced them into the British service. The belief that the English had instigated the Indian uprising in the Northwest, and the revelations of the Henry letters, hastened the declaration of war (June, 1812). The contest is known as the War of 1812, but it lasted more than two years. The terms of the treaty of peace (signed at Ghent December 24, 1814) did not settle the matters in dispute. But we have never since had the same causes for trouble, and the English have never since that time presumed to confiscate our merchantmen, nor to capture and impress our seamen. Our standing among nations of the world was

greatly improved by our success in resisting the British on the sea; in every important engagement, except one, where the forces were at all evenly matched, the British ships had to strike their colors. We showed, too, by this war, that we were able to defend ourselves against foreign invasion, and that, therefore, the United States was secure to work out its own history. Louisiana was admitted in 1812; Indiana in 1816.

412. Thought Questions.—Let the student summarize the events of the war under the following heads:

1. War on the northern frontier.
2. War on the Atlantic coast.
3. Naval battles.
4. Events in the South.

In what quarter (as above indicated) were the American arms most successful? When did the greatest number of American failures occur? Can you explain why?

MONROE'S ADMINISTRATION.

Two Terms: 1817-1825.

413. Services and Character of the New President.—James Monroe, of Virginia, was a student in William and Mary College when the United States declared their independence of Great Britain. He joined the American forces and served throughout the war, distinguishing himself as a soldier and an officer. He was minister to France under President Washington. President Jefferson sent him to France for the purchase of Louisiana, and afterwards appointed him minister to England. He served in Madison's cabinet as secretary of state. The new president was a kind-hearted man, but firm and determined in purpose. He was modest in regard to his own talents and services, and generous in admiration of the ability and usefulness of others.

414. The President's Northern Tour.—Soon after his inauguration, Monroe made a tour through the New England and other eastern states. During the war of 1812, New England had become disaffected toward the government and the Union

(§ 407), and it was Monroe's purpose to express the president's undiminished regard for this section, and to incite the loyalty of the people. He was received everywhere most cordially. The people who had favored the war, those who had opposed it, and the radical Federalist leaders who had advocated such extreme measures against it, now that the war was ended and its objects accomplished, united in doing honor to the nation's president.¹ The Federalist party went to pieces over its course in regard to this war, and our whole people seemed to be united in one party. Indeed, as years went on, the period of Monroe's administration began to be called the "Era of Good Feeling," so cordial and harmonious was the support given the president. Only one electoral vote was cast against him on his election to the second term.



James Monroe.

415. Extension of Territory: the Seminole War.—At this time Florida belonged to Spain (§ 323), and on its territory there were some Spanish forts garrisoned with Spanish soldiers. The population, however, was made up of Seminole Indians, runaway slaves, and a few English adventurers. The Seminoles formed the greater part of this mixed population. These people made frequent raids across the border into

¹ On formal occasions Monroe appeared clad in his Revolutionary uniform, and completely won the hearts of the scarred veterans of our early struggle for independence.

Georgia, destroying property, stealing slaves, and murdering settlers. When pursued into Florida, these marauding bands claimed the protection of neutral territory, or fled to the secret recesses of the everglades beyond pursuit. These raids finally became so frequent and so exasperating that General Jackson, the New Orleans hero, was sent to the front to teach the Seminoles and their allies a lesson. Jackson dealt with the matter after his usual summary manner. He drove the Indians out of Georgia, and followed them into Florida, where they scattered into the swamps to save themselves. He captured and destroyed the Seminoles' chief village, took forcible possession of two or three principal Spanish forts, and executed two British subjects who had aided the Indians.

Jackson's course caused a heated controversy in Congress, where he was accused of exceeding his instructions and of violating the law of nations. The administration, though embarrassed by his actions, defended his course, and Congress refused to censure him. Spain finally decided to sell us the territory of Florida. It was bought, in 1819, for five million dollars. As one of the conditions of this purchase we agreed that the Sabine River should form our southwestern boundary. By this agreement we relinquished in Spain's favor all claims to Texas.¹

The states of Mississippi and Alabama were formerly part of the territory claimed by Georgia. This territory was ceded to the United States in 1802 (§ 332). Mississippi became a state in 1817; Alabama, in 1819. Illinois, the third state from the great Northwest Territory, was admitted in 1818.

416. Slavery. — In 1819, the Union consisted of twenty-two states, half "free" and half "slave," with the Ohio River and the south line of Pennsylvania as the boundary between them. Circumstances had made it possible that a new Southern territory could be put forward for admission directly after the admission of each new Northern state, so that the balance

¹ The United States had claimed Texas as part of the Louisiana purchase.

had been preserved. There had been much discussion of slavery privately, in the public prints and on public platforms. Northern sentiment was divided. There was a small faction that, on moral grounds, insisted on the abolition of slavery. A greater faction feared the growth and final preponderance of the slave-holding population. A third faction, from the nature of the terms of the original union of states and the reading of the Constitution, thought it illegal and dishonorable to restrict slavery beyond the original provisions and prohibitions of the Constitution. In the South, there were many people who were opposed to slavery on moral grounds (Jefferson, Clay, and other great leaders among them), and who hoped for the gradual extinction of slavery;¹ but the major part of the population, through custom or self-interest,² had come to think the mild form of slavery that existed in the South best for both negroes and whites. And it was seen by sensible people everywhere that the immediate abolition of slavery meant ruin to the South; it would rob both races of the means of living.

417. The Missouri Compromise. — When a territorial government was proposed for Missouri (1819), the controversy broke out in intense form. The dividing line between the "free" and the "slave" states — the Ohio River — was lost on the west side of the Mississippi. Should Missouri be "free"

¹ Jefferson's plan for the gradual extinction of slavery was to declare all negroes born after a certain date free, to keep these free-born negroes with their parents until able to maintain themselves, and then to ship them to some friendly asylum outside of the United States, bought and prepared for the purpose. With this plan, slavery would perish with the death of the negroes who were still in bondage on the date set.

² In the beginning all sections without distinction bought and sold slaves, and no section thought it wrong (§§ 91, 139, 209). The negroes were at first used chiefly as domestic servants; but, with the development of cotton and rice-growing in the Southern states, they became almost indispensable in the fields of this section; so that their number grew very fast at the South and very slowly at the North. After a while there came a day when the liberation of slaves meant but slight loss to the North and ruin to the South.