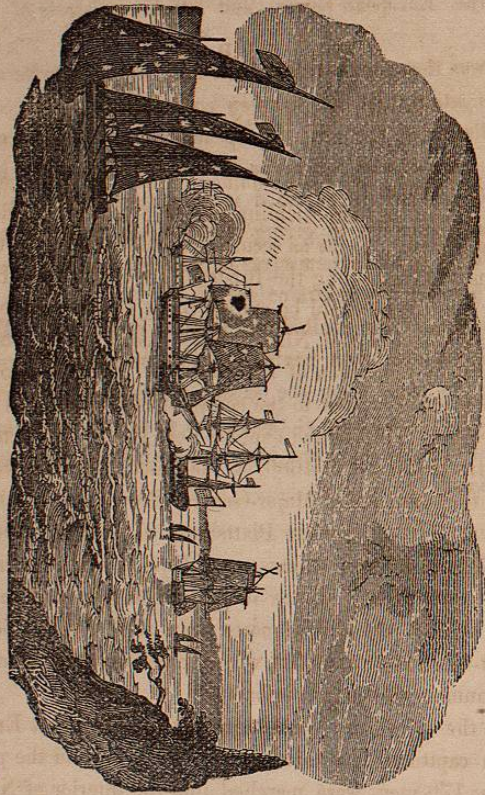


Battle of Lake Champlain.



## CHAPTER VII.

### THE CAMPAIGN OF 1814.

THE campaign of 1814 commenced with an unsuccessful expedition against Michilimackinac, a post of considerable importance, so far as securing an influence over the Indians and controlling the fur-trade are concerned. But before the troops could be embarked at Detroit, the battles of Chippewa and Niagara redeemed, in a measure, the military reputation of the country. The first step to be taken, with a view to the conquest of Canada, was to recover Fort Niagara and capture Fort Erie. The American troops, less than 4000, on the Canada frontier, were under the command of Major-General Brown, sent thither by General Wilkinson at Plattsburg, assisted by Brigadier-Generals Scott, Gaines, and Ripley. The spring passed away before he was in a situation to attempt any thing against the British posts, then protected by Lieutenant-General Drummond, whose forces were augmented by a number of veteran regiments.

On the 3d of July, General Brown invested Fort Erie, which capitulated, without striking a blow, and the prisoners, 170 men, were marched into the interior of New York. General Brown then resolved to attack Major-General Riall, who, with a division of British regulars, was entrenched at Chippewa. Here a general engagement was fought, with great coolness and bravery on both

Dx. VI.  
Ch. 7.  
A. D.  
1814.  
Plan of  
the cam-  
paign.

Surrender of  
Fort  
Erie.



BE. VI. sides; but victory declared for the Americans, marshalled  
 Ch. 7. by Brown and Scott. In this battle, General Scott, then  
 A. D. a young man of thirty, greatly distinguished himself, as  
 1814. well as Majors Jesup, Leavensworth, and M'Neill. The  
 Battle loss of the British was 505, in killed and wounded; that  
 of Chippewa. of the Americans, 338. After this pitched battle, the  
 English fell back to Queenstown, and then to Ten Mile  
 Creek.

The battle of Chippewa, although not decisive in its results, was a brilliant victory, when it is remembered that the Americans contended with a superior force of regulars, accustomed to the wars of Europe. Moreover, it was the commencement of a series of successes, after the long prostration of the American arms.

Unfortunately, Commodore Chauncey was ill, and the fleet on Lake Ontario was unable to co-operate with the army, in prosecuting the successes which had been gained; and General Brown, unprepared to pursue the enemy, fell back to the junction of the Chippewa and Niagara.

Battle of Bridge-water. Meanwhile, Lieutenant-General Drummond joined General Riall, with a large reinforcement, assumed the command, and led his forces against the Americans. The two armies met at Bridgewater, near Niagara Falls, and the most desperate and bloody conflict of the whole war here ensued (July 25th). The battle was indecisive, and victory was claimed by both parties, although the palm is justly due to the Americans, since they contended against a superior force, and this force composed of veterans, and finally held the ground. In this battle, Generals Brown and Scott were wounded, and the command devolved on General Ripley. The British Generals Drummond and Riall were also wounded. The loss on both sides was nearly equal, a little short of 900 men being either killed or wounded, among both the

Americans and English. In this battle, General Scott BE. VI.  
 again signalized himself for impetuous bravery as well as Ch. 7.  
 cool intrepidity, and gave the promise of ultimately A. D.  
 reaching the height of his profession—which promise 1814.  
 he has gloriously fulfilled by his Mexican campaign.  
 General Ripley, Colonels Jesup, Miller, and Leavensworth also won an honourable fame in that bloody battlefield.

On the 3d of August, General Drummond followed the American invaders to Fort Erie, then defended by General Gaines, to which he laid siege, with 4000 troops. On the 12th, he attempted to carry the fort by assault, but was repelled, with great loss. His troops, it must be confessed, fought with desperate valour, stung with rage at the disgrace of being beaten by raw American recruits. But they were met with even greater valour. The Americans retained their ground, and even made a sortie, on the 17th of September, under General Porter, which nearly destroyed the whole British force. In this sortie, he was ably supported by General Ripley, General Miller, Colonel Gibson, and Colonel Aspinwall, the latter of whom was seriously wounded. General Gaines, for his gallantry, was brevetted.

General Izard, who now commanded at Plattsburg instead of General Wilkinson, with 7000 men, had been ordered by the Secretary of War to move, with 3500 men, from Sackett's Harbour, for the assistance of General Brown. Had he arrived in season, the whole British force might have been captured, and then nothing would have prevented the advance of the Americans upon Montreal. But he did not arrive until late in the season, partly from the difficulties of the march, and partly from disinclination to add to the laurels of General Brown, whom he looked upon with an eye of jealousy. He



BK. VI. certainly did not expedite his march, but took the longest  
Ch. 7. route, although General Brown had written to him im-  
A. D. ploring speedy aid. It was not until the 12th of October,  
1814. that he reached Fort Erie; and, being the senior general,  
he assumed the command. He was now at the head of  
6000 excellent troops, and in good condition to face the  
enemy. Leaving a sufficient garrison at Fort Erie, he  
advanced towards Chippewa, to operate offensively against  
General Drummond; but the English commander de-  
clined a battle. The Americans were then forced to  
abandon Fort Erie, and to retire into winter-quarters, on  
account of the approaching cold.

Ameri-  
cans re-  
tire into  
winter-  
quarters

Thus terminated the third invasion of Canada, not im-  
gloriously, as in the two preceding campaigns, since the  
British force was double that of the Americans.

Before the army retired to Buffalo and Batavia for  
winter-quarters, a battle had been fought at Plattsburg,  
which resulted in the success of the American arms.

British  
advance  
upon  
Platts-  
burg.

General Izard, on his retirement from Plattsburg to  
assist General Brown, left nominally 3000 men, under  
the command of General Macomb, but only 1500 fit for  
service. Sir George Prevost, commander-in-chief of the  
British forces in Canada, soon after made arrangements  
to attack Plattsburg with an army of 14,000 men. In  
this emergency, General Macomb called upon the govern-  
ors of New York and Vermont for assistance, and, in  
obedience to their orders, 3500 militia repaired to Platts-  
burg. The splendid American autumn had now com-  
menced. The troops, though only half in number to  
their adversary, were in good spirits, and vigorously ex-  
erted their energies in constructing defences.

It was resolved by Sir George Prevost to attack Platts-  
burg both by land and water. For this purpose, in addi-  
tion to his great army, he had a powerful co-operating

naval force, under Commodore Downie. The Americans  
also had a considerable, though inferior squadron, for the  
defence of Plattsburg, under Commodore M'Donough.

BK. VI.  
Ch. 7.

A. D.  
1814.

On the 11th of September, the battle commenced, and  
the issue of it was decided on the lake. The British  
commodore, too confident of victory, attacked the Ameri-  
can fleet in the harbour of Plattsburg, while the defences  
were assailed on the land by the troops of Prevost.  
M'Donough calmly awaited the attack, having chosen a  
favourable position, and, by admirable management, nearly  
annihilated the attacking squadron. General Macomb de-  
fended his position with equal skill, and successfully beat  
off the forces intended to crush him. Sir George Prevost,  
after a few disastrous skirmishes, withdrew his forces into  
Canada, in great haste and disorder. His disasters were  
unaccountable, and almost incredible — thus adding an-  
other confirmation to the great fact in the history of na-  
tions, that the battle is not always to the strong, or the  
race to the swift: to teach to the weak the great moral  
lesson of the folly of despair, and to the mighty, the folly  
of presumptuous self-confidence. Macomb, after his splen-  
did victory, was brevetted, and made commander-in-chief  
of the American army, and, in that station, he died, at  
Washington, universally respected and lamented.

Battle of  
Platts-  
burg.

By this victory on Lake Champlain, the most decisive  
of the war, New England and New York were delivered  
from an enemy of vastly superior force; and courage and  
energy, unequalled since the beginning of the contest,  
were imparted to the American troops. Had the war  
continued much longer, Canada would probably have  
fallen, and been joined to the American confederacy.

Conse-  
quences  
of the  
victory.

While fortune smiled on the American arms on the  
Canadian frontier, considerable reverses were sustained by  
the navy. In the early part of the year, the frigate



Bk. VI.  
Ch. 7. Essex, under Commodore Porter, was captured, in the harbour of Valparaiso, by two British vessels; a loss which was soon after redeemed in the capture of the 1814. Epervier by the Peacock, in the Gulf of Mexico, and through that of the Reindeer and Avar by the Wasp, each of her own size. On the 21st of September, the Wasp also captured the Atalanta, making her thirteenth prize; but she herself never returned into port. Nearly contemporaneous was the capture of the President by a British squadron; a misfortune soon forgotten in the brilliant action achieved by Captain Stewart of the Constitution, in which he captured the frigate Cyane and sloop of war Levant. On the 23d of March, 1815, the Hornet captured the Penguin — the last naval action of consequence in the war.

Naval  
victories.

More important affairs now demand our attention. While our troops were marshalled at Plattsburg, the English succeeded in making a descent upon the capital of the nation, and in inflicting disgraceful outrages.

British  
enter  
the Chesapeake.

In the month of August, a powerful squadron, under Sir Alexander Cochrane, having on board a large body of troops, commanded by General Ross, entered the Chesapeake Bay, and proceeded up the Patuxent to Marlborough, where they landed without opposition. Through the negligence of the Secretary of War, suitable preparations had not been made to resist the enemy; and the indecision and want of energy of General Winder, who commanded the American troops, hastily collected together, enabled them to achieve an easy victory over him at Bladensburg. The British commander then proceeded to Washington, and destroyed the dock-yards and shipping, and the public edifices of the government, including the capitol, with the valuable library of Congress and the President's house. "The President himself narrowly

Washington  
seized.

escaped capture. Having completed the work of devastation, like so many Vandals, the British soldiers retired to their ships, and descended the river to the Chesapeake." Bk. VI.  
Ch. 7.

General Armstrong, Secretary of War, was so severely censured for the disastrous capture of Washington, that he was compelled to resign. Mr. Monroe, Secretary of State, took charge of his department, and continued to hold it till the 2d of March, 1816, when Mr. Crawford, of Georgia, was appointed Secretary of War. Ill health compelled Mr. Campbell, about this time, to resign the office of Secretary of the Treasury, and he was succeeded by Mr. Dallas, of Pennsylvania.

A. D.  
1814.

Resignation  
of  
Armstrong

On the 6th of September, the English fleet, with more than 5000 soldiers, sailed up the Chesapeake, with a view of capturing Baltimore. They landed on the 12th, at North Point, and General Ross and Admiral Cochrane, in the van, proceeded, without resistance, about four miles, when they were attacked by General Stricker, and compelled to retire, with the loss of the British commander. The country was now fairly aroused, and the English squadron, fearing its own safety, descended the bay, and sailed for Pensacola, where large reinforcements, under General Pakenham, a relative and a favourite lieutenant of Wellington, shortly after arrived; the capture of New Orleans by these forces being now projected.

British  
design  
on Bal  
timore.

The scene of war now changed to the southern sections of the country, and was destined to be ended by the splendid successes of General Andrew Jackson.

After concluding a treaty with the Creeks residing in Alabama and Georgia, this able general transferred his head-quarters to Mobile. Here he learned that three ships of war had arrived at Pensacola, then a possession of the Spanish nation, and had landed 300 soldiers and a large quantity of military stores. Having in vain remon-

Jackson  
storms  
Pensa  
cola.



BR. VI.  
Ch. 7. strated with the governor of Pensacola for harbouring and assisting our enemies, he determined to seek redress without waiting for authority from Washington. Reinforced with 2000 Tennessee militia and some Choctaw Indians, he advanced toward Pensacola, and, reaching the city on the 6th of November, he stormed it on the following day. On the 9th, having accomplished his purpose, he returned to Mobile.

New Orleans threatened.

It had long been feared that New Orleans would be the next object of attack by the British; the city was accordingly put in the best possible state of defence, and the militia organized. General Jackson, apprehensive of danger, arrived from Mobile, on the 2d of December. He superintended, with great zeal, all the various defences, called on the legislature for assistance, and secured considerable military supplies.

On the 9th of December, the enemy, with sixty sail, was seen off the coast of Mississippi. On the 22d, a division of the British, under General Keane, came suddenly on the American guard, and took them prisoners. On the 23d, the enemy was in turn attacked by General Jackson, with considerable loss, and nothing but a fog, suddenly arising, prevented their complete discomfiture.

Fortification of New Orleans.

Meanwhile, General Jackson continued to fortify his position, between the Swamp and the Mississippi, and here erected a breastwork of earth and cotton bags, a little outside of the city. After several ineffectual attempts to drive the Americans into the city, Sir Edward Pakenham, on the 8th of January, 1815, brought his whole force, 15,000 strong, to attack the Americans, entrenched behind their breastwork, one mile in length, with a ditch in front. Jackson's efficient force was about 3000 men. The English advanced in solid column, on the even plain, assailed by the American batteries, until within musket-

1815.

The attack: victory of the Americans.

shot, when a dreadful fire was opened upon them, so deadly and effective, that the enemy's columns were literally swept away. No troops could stand a fire which destroyed hundreds at every discharge. The British were broken, dispersed, and disheartened. The commander-in-chief was killed in an ineffectual attempt to animate them by his own example. They however rallied, under Generals Gibbs and Keane, and again were driven back, with immense slaughter. So dreadful a carnage has scarcely ever been recorded. So great a disproportion between the victors and the conquered is not furnished in the whole annals of war. Nearly 3000 of the enemy were slain, or wounded, or taken prisoners, while the American loss was only seven killed and six wounded.

BR. VI.  
Ch. 7.  
A. D.  
1815

Great loss of the British.

General Lambert, who succeeded Sir Edward Pakenham in command, and who was the only general officer left upon the field, immediately made preparations to re-embark his troops; and, relinquishing the hopeless enterprise, the British, in the night of the 18th, with great secrecy, regained their ships.

Consequences of the victory.

The news of this great victory was hailed with triumphant joy throughout the United States, and every honour was lavished on the illustrious commander. This battle closed the war.

Meanwhile, before it was fought, a treaty of peace had been concluded at Ghent (December 24th, 1814). The treaty was signed on the part of the United States by J. Q. Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russel, and Albert Gallatin. It stipulated for the mutual restoration of places taken in the war, the relinquishment of captures by sea, the cessation of Indian hostilities, the exchange of prisoners, and the adjustment of boundaries. But the subjects of impressment and the rights of neutrals, which had provoked the war, were left

1814.  
Treaty of Ghent.



Bk. VI.  
Ch. 7. unnoticed. The orders in council, however, had been revoked, and impressment was no longer practised.

A. D. Thus closed the war with Great Britain, which had 1815. lasted two years and eight months, in which our armies at first were signally defeated, owing to long habits of peace and want of abler generals. The misfortunes on the land, however, were compensated by victories on the water, which showed the superiority of the American navy over the English, whenever it contended with equal force; and, before the war had closed, our armies gained victories proportionate to former defeats, as the exigencies of the times and military practice developed the talents of the younger generals and accustomed the people to the use of arms. The war was attended with great expenses, but the moral effect was beneficial, since the Americans gained much experience as well as the respect of European nations. This war also showed the utter impossibility of gaining any material advantage over the Americans on their own soil, however great the forces of the enemy, while it taught the nation the necessity of being always prepared for war, by increasing the defences of the seaboard, maintaining a respectable military and naval force, and, above all, cherishing a decent respect for the military profession — for, a nation, in which the military spirit is extinct, is certainly doomed to great misfortunes.

Sudden  
fall of  
prices.

One of the effects of the war was to cripple for a while the commerce of the country, and to cause all British manufactured goods to rise to an enormous price. On the return of peace, the market was glutted with English merchandise; prices fell, and extensive bankruptcies ensued. At no time, in the history of the country, were greater reverses of fortune experienced.

During the war, extensive manufactories were esta-

lished, and such was their success, that an immense capital was soon invested in them. With peace, these establishments, in some instances, were broken down, but still, on the whole, continued to thrive, until the United States have become nearly independent of all other nations.

Before the adjournment of the thirteenth Congress, an act was passed, authorizing the President to despatch a squadron to the Mediterranean, to chastise the Algerines. This force was put under the command of Commodore Decatur, who soon captured and destroyed all the principal vessels of the enemy, and dictated to them the terms of peace.

After many ineffectual attempts to secure a national bank, a bill was reported by Mr. Calhoun, on the 8th of June, 1815, which passed both houses of Congress, and was approved by the President. By this bill a bank was chartered, with a capital of thirty-five millions, and was located at Philadelphia.

During the session of the fourteenth Congress, a new tariff of duties on importations, designed to protect moderately American manufactures, was adopted, with the concurrence of several members of the democratic party.

The last session of Congress held during the administration of Mr. Madison commenced on the 2d of December, 1816, and closed on the 3d of March, 1817. One of the most important acts of this session was that which provided for the payment of the national debt, which then exceeded one hundred and twenty millions. The navigation laws were revised, and an act passed regulating the territories, and authorizing them to be represented in Congress by one delegate from each.

On the 11th of December, 1816, Indiana was admitted into the Union, which had been partially settled by the

Bk. VI.  
Ch. 7.  
A. D.  
1815  
to  
1817.

Algerines  
chastised.

National  
bank

Tariff of  
1815.

Acts of  
the 14th  
Congress



**Bk. VI.** French a century before, and which then composed a part-  
**Ch. 7.** of the Northwestern territory.

**A. D.** At the close of Madison's administration great efforts  
**1817.** were made in the cause of education, which had languished  
for several years, and a spirit of religious inquiry, un-  
**Com-** known for half a century, once more aroused the country.  
**mence-** The arts of life, too, received a great impulse, and the  
**ment of** nation, now amounting to nine millions five hundred  
**prosper-** thousand people, made new strides in civilization and  
**ity.** power. The tide of emigration set strongly towards the  
West, and the great valley of the Mississippi and its  
branches were rapidly filled with enterprising inhabitants  
from the Old World and the Atlantic States. With the  
establishment of peace was also a breaking up of the old  
**Reflec-** political parties. The Federalists ceased to be a political  
**tions on** organization with the dissolution of the Hartford Con-  
**Mad-** vention, and new interests demanded new advocates. The  
**son's ad-** ancient animosities in a measure disappeared with the re-  
**minis-** tirement of Madison from the office which for eight years  
**tration.** he had held with so much honour. It was his fortune to  
conduct affairs at a critical period, and when he retired to  
that private life which he knew so well how to enjoy, he  
bequeathed to his countrymen an unusual degree of tran-  
quillity, prosperity, and happiness. In the midst of liter-  
ary and agricultural occupations he spent his declining  
days, honoured by the respect of the nation, and cheered  
by the society of cultivated friends. With his retirement  
from office, March 3d, 1817, and the accession of James  
Monroe, a new era commenced in American affairs.

## BOOK VII.

### THE LATTER PRESIDENTS.

#### CHAPTER I.

##### ADMINISTRATION OF MONROE.

THE election of James Monroe, of Virginia, to the **Bk. VII.**  
office of chief magistrate took place at a period of tran- **Ch. 1.**  
quillity unexampled since the second election of Washing- **A. D.**  
ton. He was a statesman of great moderation, and aimed **1817.**  
to heal the divisions which had distracted the country.  
In the formation of his cabinet he made choice of John **Mon-**  
Quincy Adams as Secretary of State; Mr. Crawford was **roe's**  
continued in the Treasury Department; Governor Shelby **cabinet.**  
was made Secretary of War; Mr. Crowninshield, Secre-  
tary of the Navy; and Mr. Rush was appointed Attorney-  
General. Mr. Rush was soon after sent to England, and  
Mr. Wirt took his place.

After arranging affairs at Washington, the President  
made a tour of inspection through the Middle, Eastern,  
and Western States, and was everywhere received with  
demonstrations of respect.

The fifteenth Congress assembled on the 1st of Decem-  
ber, 1817, and Henry Clay was unanimously chosen