

**THE BATTLE OF QUEENSTON.**

AGAIN, with confidence elate,  
The invading Foe has found  
A captive's unexpected fate,  
On our Canadian ground.  
Triumphant, as before, though still  
Out number'd by the Foe,  
Our Chiefs again have shown how skill  
Can deal the unerring blow.

Again we boast—but with a sigh—  
A brilliant day's career;

For Brock demands from every eye  
The tribute of a tear!

Devoted to his Country's Cause,  
The Soldier's debt he paid,  
From age to age, with just applause,  
His name shall be convey'd.

Fredericton, 6th November, 1812.

From the QUEBEC GAZETTE, November 5.

**BATTLE OF QUEENSTON.**

BROWN'S POINT, (near Niagara and on the  
Niagara River,) 14th October, 1812.

MY DEAR FATHER,

By the first opportunity that offers to me, I hasten to relieve your anxious mind from the suspense you must have suffered for my fate at the memorable engagement of Queenston Hill: I have now the happiness to inform you, that I have escaped throughout the whole business without having a hair of my head touched, while several brave fellows were falling about me. Although we proved successful, so far as either to drive or take as prisoners, the whole of the American Forces, we have to deplore the loss of our gallant Commander, Gen. Brock, who fell under a fire of musquetry, that can be compared to nothing but the throwing of gravel: Mr. M'DONELL, is also among the slain, as well as several of the 49th regiment who, consisting of about fifty, had to withstand the advance of the enemy of about three hundred men. I will now relate to you, as concisely as possible, the whole of the eventful affair of yesterday, leaving for my return, to give you, personally, a more circumstantial account. For several nights previous to the attack, we had been ordered to be more than usually on the alert, as Gen. Brock, by his vigilance, had discovered more than ordinary movements on the American side: It was on the fifth night successively, that I had been on guard, and tolerably wearied, when the universal stillness that reigned around us, was disturbed by the report of two 18-pounders, fired from the Mountain on the American side, upon Queenston, which was immediately returned by a discharge of Artillery and small arms from our side; the distance from Queenston to our station here, is about three miles; all were immediately under arms, and we waited impatiently for marching orders; during the interval, I went down to our battery from whence the view was truly tremendous, the darkness of the night, interrupted by the flash of the guns and small-arms, was a scene I am unable to give you an idea of; about half past five, our party marched, but I was ordered by Mr. Cameron to a battery about one mile below us, and to take charge of it; I obeyed him reluctantly. The Americans were in the mean time passing over in large boats, and although several boats were knocked to pieces, and the men that were in them picked off by dozens, they still pushed forward, and some effected a landing unperceived by us, a little above Queenston, at the foot of the hill, and mounted the hill where it was almost a precipice, and formed nearly three hundred strong; they immediately pushed forward, surprized our camp where they were totally unprepared for resistance, drove our regulars down the hill, and took possession of an 18-pounder battery. The 49th were brought on by their officers, and drove the Americans some distance, but being opposed by five times their number, and unsupported by any, they were again obliged to give way, and the Americans took possession of their post. In the mean time, the carriage along the shore was shocking, the Americans endeavoring to land under a heavy fire from two batteries, the one elevated three hundred feet above our heads, the other in Lewistown, and some field pieces; the grenadiers of the 49th and York Volunteers at the same time opposing their landing; at last, the enemy's fire was too heavy, and we were obliged to retire to a hollow, out of the way of the American shot, but not until some of the regulars fell; One of the militia by the name of Kennedy, had his thigh shot off by a cannon ball, and another had the calf of his leg carried away by the same shot. By this time Gen. Brock had arrived from Niagara, and had hardly made his appearance, while rallying the men at the hill, when he was shot through the breast, and immediately fell and expired, saying at the same time, "Push on the brave York Volunteers"; and truly they conducted themselves as regulars. About the same time Mr. Macdonell received a ball in his side and fell, his horse with him. Archy Maclean ran to his assistance, and while stooping to raise him up, received a wound in his thigh; Capt. Williams of the 49th at the same time was wounded in the head and fell, but immediately rose up and got away as did also the rest. The firing on our side immediately ceased, while the Americans were paying away on all sides with cannon and musquetry; in the mean time a party of the 41st arrived from Niagara, as also two militia companies, together with a number of Indians and Gen. SHEAFFE; it was then too late to charge, with any hopes of success, as the Americans had a force of at least one thousand men and was continually bringing in fresh numbers: orders were given to our force to collect and march to the right and ascend the mountain and so to take the Yankees in the rear, leaving only thirty men with the two field pieces

under Capt. Holcroft at Mr. Hamilton's, to prevent the enemy from coming further into the Town. The main body then took a circuitous rout, and got in rear of the Americans, and with the assistance of the Indians, attempted to drive the former from the camp they had taken possession of on the top of the hill, but owing to inferiority of numbers, were obliged to desist and retire about three hundred yards into a wood, where they remained until they were joined by a party of the regulars and militia from Chippewa, and by one hundred of the 41st and militia from Niagara, with whom I came, running risks of disobeying Mr. Cameron, when I saw no movements opposite to me, and when they stood in need of every person that could be spared—when we all assembled we formed a little army of nearly 700 men including Indians. The word was given to form, which was done in a large field, the Yorkists on the left; as we advanced, the Americans kept up a smart fire from some bushes between their camp and us—orders were issued for us to move double quick time, which is almost a full run, and to shout at the same time—then the firing of the cannon from their batteries, the discharge of small arms, the whizzing of the balls and yells that issued from all quarters, exceed description; at length we obliged them to give way, at that time a reinforcement of 130 regulars arrived, and we continued driving them on like chaff before the wind; the poor wretches endeavored to hide themselves under the sides of the mountain, but were soon discovered by the Indians, some jumped headlong from the rocks, and were either killed in the fall, or lingering out a few hours of miserable existence—the bugle was at length heard to sound, and "cease firing," was the word given.—All was silent; and presently a White Flag was seen ascending the hill: the purport of it was, to beg for quarter.—An unconditional surrender accordingly took place, and a cessation begged from the American General Van Rensselaer, for three days, which was granted, upon condition that all the boats should be destroyed, which was immediately done. One thousand men laid down their arms at different times in the afternoon, surrendering themselves prisoners. Our prisoners consist of one General, two Lieut. Colonels, five Majors, and an innumerable number of Captains and Lieutenants, with the 1000 men I have before mentioned. Three hundred men are supposed to have fallen in the action, killed or wounded of the Americans, besides upwards of one hundred drowned in attempting to cross the river, which at that place is very rapid; so that altogether, their loss is not much less than fifteen hundred men in killed, wounded and prisoners, exclusive of the carnage that took place in the American Garrison, occasioned by the heavy fire from Fort George, which was so hot that it drove them completely from their batteries, but not until they had succeeded in firing the Gaol (at Niagara) with red hot balls, which consumed it in a few hours; two other hot balls at different times struck in the magazine at Niagara (Fort George) but by the steady courage and bravery displayed by two of our men, they were happily removed without doing the least injury. From a battery whereon we had two cohorts, we threw shells upon their upper battery opposite Queenston, and killed and wounded several of the enemy, amongst them was their Commander in Chief, Gen. Van Rensselaer. The General taken was a Gen. Wadsworth; almost all that crossed the river were the flower of their army, consisting of regulars.—Several Irishmen are among them. Poor George Jarvis is taken prisoner, but I think it likely he will be exchanged. Richard Shaw is wounded in the left hand; several of our militiamen are wounded.—Tom Smith is killed. Thus has it pleased Providence to bless us with victory, although dearly purchased at the expense of one of the bravest of men, our Commander in Chief.—I am heartily thankful for my own escape, which I thought at one time not very certain. The affair at Fort Erie, I suppose you have already heard of, and that Pell Major was killed. An American Col. Cuyler was killed there, with several others, although they succeeded in capturing two of our vessels yet we rendered the cannon on board entirely useless by spiking them; a party of fifty men having been sent for that purpose, who accomplished their object, although under a severe fire of cannon and small arms. Pell Major was entering the cabin window, when he was pierced by five balls. Our loss at Queenston hill is much less in point of numbers than you would suppose, when you understand that a General Officer and Col. fell, but the Americans are remarked for that policy to spare the common men, but to mark the officers. Only 20 men are killed altogether, including Indians, and between 50 and 60 wounded.—After the engagement, Sam Jarvis and I, who stuck by one another during the whole battle, walked over the field of action when the objects that met our eye were truly horrible; most of the dead bodies were stripped entirely by the Indians, and several scalped. Afterwards we visited the different rooms, were the wounded and dying were lying; the sight here was past description, and I hope never to see the like again.—Although we have been blessed with victory, we are uncertain what may be the fate of our army to the westward, who are by this time, I expect, engaged with Gen. Harrison, who marched in that direction with 3000 men.—If they succeed there, our situation will be very critical; I do not think it improbable but that we shall yet have to steer our course to the westward this fall; the march will be worse than the fighting. I forgot to mention, that while the Americans were crossing at Queenston, our batteries opened at Fort Erie, and destroyed their magazine at Buffalo. I must leave off as I am ordered upon duty, and conclude with remaining your dutiful son.

G—R—

Blanks of various kinds may be had at this office.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 30.

Arrived.—Monday evening, schooners Three Sisters and Trafalgar, from Burin, Newfoundland.

Tuesday, H. M. S. Shannon, Nympe, and Tenedos, and Curlew, sloop.—Had recaptured brig Friendship, from Quebec for England, laden with grain, and sent her for Bermuda.

The Three Sisters brought a Newfoundland Paper of the 29th ult.—We have made some extracts from it.

The skipper of a shallop, which arrived yesterday from Manchester, informs us of having seen on Friday last, a long low ship, lying to, with her head to the westward, off the White Islands.

Extract of a letter from Pictou, November 22.

"On Monday the 18th, a vessel arrived here with 74 passengers from Scotland, sent out by Major Fraser; who is coming to Halifax in the Atalanta, commanded by Capt. Fraser—Capt. Hickey having been posted."

ST. JOHN'S, N. F. OCTOBER 29.

Tuesday morning, His Excellency Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth, K. B. &c. sailed for England in H. M. S. Antelope.

The Hazard and Avenger sailed in company with the Antelope.

Yesterday arrived, H. M. S. Nimrod, Capt. Mitchell, from Portsmouth, with despatches for His Excellency Sir John Thomas Duckworth—she sailed on the 21st September, and brought London Papers to the 19th—the following are extracts from them:

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 14

A mail from Gottenburgh arrived this morning. It has not brought intelligence from the Russian army of so late a date as the last battles. Of the battle of Polotsk gives a very different account from the French Bulletin. The French are asserted to have lost 7000 men in killed and wounded, and 2500 made prisoners. The last Russian Bulletin is of the 15th; The Russians were then at Katon and near Krasnoi. In a sortie from Riga, 8 guns and 500 men were taken. The Crown Prince of Sweden has had an interview with the Emperor Alexander at Abo. He was received with the most marked distinction, and was honored with the highest Russian Orders. Lord Cathcart was present, and received the highest Order of St. Alexander Newsky. Accounts arrived this morning from Sir James Saumarez, Commander in Chief in the Baltic, detailing some partial actions between the Russians and French in which the former have been successful.

SEPTEMBER 19.

There were reports strongly prevalent in town this day, of great agitations in Holland, little short of insurrection, on account the menaced new conscription in that country, in order to send reinforcements to the North.

GOTTENBURGH, SEPTEMBER 6.

Our latest intelligence from the Grand Armies comes down to the 18th. There had been a battle in the streets of Polotsk; the French were completely driven back with the loss of 7000 killed and 2500 prisoners. Among the wounded is Marshal Oudinot, severely in the shoulder. The Russians made a sortie from Riga, in which they took 8 guns and 500 prisoners. It is estimated that since the commencement of the war the Russians have made 14,000 prisoners. On the 31st ult. the Crown Prince returned from Abo. He was received by the Emperor Alexander in the greatest style, and decorated with the highest Russian Orders. Lord Cathcart was also received with the greatest distinction. He was presented with highest Order of St. Alexander Newsky.

PORTSMOUTH, SEPTEMBER 19.

The 15th bulletin from the French army is arrived. Slawkovo, August 27. This place, it is said, is distant about 100 miles from Moscow, to which Bonaparte is rapidly advancing. The bulletin contains but little important information. The great and manifest exaggerations contained in these documents, as well as the continual accusations they are filled with against the Russians for avoiding a general engagement, and destroying the country in their retreat, are all so many proofs that Bonaparte has not met with the success he expected. We hope as he advances his difficulties will increase, and that the spirit of the Russians will rise in proportion to the dangers with which they are surrounded. Nothing but this patient and patriotic spirit is wanting, to enable them to set at defiance all the efforts of the French Armies.

Extract of a letter from Palermo, July 21.

"The politics of this country have taken a most favorable turn. Parliament met a few days ago for the purpose of considering the perilous situation of the country. The Nobility unanimously resolved, and announced it with three cheers, that the feudal system should be abolished, that they should give up all their rights and privileges, and that the peasantry and themselves should enjoy the same laws. They further declared the Sicilian Constitution decayed, and that it was necessary to form a new one after that of England; that the Parliament should consist of Lords and Commons, and that the King should not have power to do any thing without the consent of the Parliament; that the Judges are to be declared independent, and appointed for life.—Lord W. Bentinck is appointed Lord Chancellor; in fact every thing is now arranged as favourably as we can wish. The Queen came to town next morning in great haste, supposing every thing would have gone on in the house as she wished, and that once more she would have taken up the reins of government, little expecting what she had to meet in Palermo. However, she very prudently retired into the country the same morning. Thus a most wonderful Revolution has been effected without a drop of blood being shed, or any confusion taking place."