

# THE BATTLE OF LUNDY'S LANE.

On the other hand, he had received considerable reinforcements. As soon as it was known that he had passed the Niagara troops were put in motion, both from Detroit and Sackett's Harbor, to support him. A letter in the *Baltimore Patriot*, dated July 12th, relates that upon the day after the action at Chippawa, he was joined by about one thousand men from Buffalo, regulars, volunteers, and Indians, among them Captain Stone's mounted riflemen, 160 strong. On July 16th, deserters who arrived in the British camp, reported that 700 men had just crossed over from Lewiston. This reinforcement was composed of detachments of the 11th, 22nd and 23rd regiments. Rumors of disaster having become current before intelligence of the battle had been actually received, the editor of Niles' Register, published in Baltimore, took occasion to observe in the issue of July 30th: "General Brown has received some handsome reinforcements from Buffalo, and there is no reason to believe he cannot maintain his ground for some time." The most authoritative evidence on the subject is to be found in a pamphlet published by General Ripley in 1815, vindicating his conduct, which is now very rare. It contains an official return, showing the effective strength of the two brigades of infantry upon the 23rd July to have been 136 officers and 2,620 non-commissioned officers and privates. Upon the 24th we are informed that 190 of the 22nd Infantry, under Lieut. Guy, and 220 of the 1st, under Colonel Nicholas, who were not included in this return, arrived from Fort Erie. Then he supplies a second return, showing the effective strength of Porter's brigade upon the 30th July, five days after the action, to have been sixty-one officers, and 538 rank and file, and that of the artillery on the same date, twelve officers and 260 rank and file. The loss of these corps in the action, according to the official published return, was 112 of all ranks, but this certainly does not include loss from desertion and straggling, which in a militia force especially, is commonly very considerable after a reverse. This, however, gives a grand total of 4,059 officers and men. The general staff, dragoons, mounted infantry and a detachment of engineers, still remained unincorporated, but of these no returns are available. Making due allowance for these and the probable understatement of the loss of the militia brigade, it is safe to say that Brown had under arms on the evening of the 25th July at least 4,500 of all ranks, of whom upwards of 3,500 were regulars. A certain proportion probably were detailed for camp service but after making a reasonable deduction for this, he still must have been able to bring more than 4,000 men into action, with nine pieces of field-artillery, three of which were 18-pounders, and one 5½-inch howitzer. In fact a letter dated at Buffalo next day, giving a very accurate account of the battle, states his force engaged at precisely that number. In artillery he possessed a decided preponderance from the beginning of the action, an advantage which was only partially counterbalanced by the excellence of the position occupied by the British guns.

Leaving the Queenston road at nearly a right angle, Lundy's Lane followed a course almost due west for about half a mile, then trending gradually northward, crossed the Twelve Mile Creek at DeCew's Falls. About a hundred yards west of the junction of the roads, on the south side of Lundy's Lane, stood a Presbyterian church, a low frame building, painted red. It occupied the highest point of the rise, which slopes gently southward and westward, but dips more abruptly to the east and north. On the right of the church lay a small enclosure, in which a few weatherbeaten wooden slabs and rude brown headstones, with sometimes a brief inscription roughly carved upon them by the village blacksmith's chisel, but more often nameless, marked the graves of the fathers of the settlement. Hither, too, brave young Cecil Bishop was borne by mourning comrades upon their return from that daring raid in which he met his death, and there he still reposes. Southward, a thriving young orchard covered the slope below the graveyard, extending quite to the edge of the Portage Road and encircling a small dwelling and farmyard. Meadows and cultivated fields lay beyond, bounded by thick woods less than half a mile away on both sides of the road, stretching down to the river near Table Rock, and skirting the brink of the chasm for a long distance.

Dreading an ambush, Scott carefully reconnoitred these woods with his cavalry, and his delay enabled the British light troops to regain the position they had just abandoned. Then, as now, Lundy's Lane was bordered by many apple, cherry, and peach trees, thrusting their projecting boughs over the highway. In these orchards the Glengarry Light Infantry took up their ground, forming the right wing of the British line of battle. Tomkins' two field-guns were planted among the graves on the very summit of the knoll beside the church, so as to sweep the road. The detachment of the 8th and the Incorporated Militia were posted lower down, behind the fences, and in the fields on the left of the main road extending towards the river, but leaving an interval of more than two hundred yards unoccupied next the bank, which was overgrown with scrub-pine and brushwood. The extremities of both wings were inclined slightly forward. The remainder of Morrison's column was formed in rear of the guns, under shelter of the ridge, as fast as it came up, and the troop of the 19th Dragoons was posted on the high road some distance further away. The entire number of all ranks in the field when this was accomplished was 1,637, of whom about one-half were Provincial troops.

It has become the fashion among American writers to describe Drummond's force as being composed of Wellington's veterans. With the exception of Colonel Henry Scott and possibly a few other officers, who may have exchanged from other regiments, it is safe to assert that not a man in the entire division had ever served under that illustrious commander, and very few of them had seen active service of any kind outside of Canada.

As the Americans emerged from the woods, the 9th, 11th, and 22nd regiments deployed in the fields on the left and the 25th on the right of the road, while their field-guns came to the front and unlimbered upon the highway. The brigade of infantry numbered 1,506 of all ranks, and the artillery, dragoons and other mounted corps consisting of two troops of U. S. dragoons and the New York commands of Boughton and

Stone, probably mustered 300 more, making a total force of 1,800 fighting men.

Retiring leisurely before the advancing enemy, the British skirmishers frequently halted and formed as if with the intention of making a stand, then dispersed again as soon as their position was seriously threatened. Much valuable time was gained by these manoeuvres, which were continued until the vanguard of the American army had approached within half musket-shot of their fighting line when they finally ran in. The sun was about half an hour high, or, in other words, it was between six and seven o'clock in the afternoon, when Scott began the engagement by a general attack of light troops along the entire front of the British position. On the right, the Glengarries easily maintained their ground, but a section of the Royal Scots which had just come up, startled by the sudden apparition among the trees in their front of a body of men in green uniforms, resembling those of the American riflemen they had encountered that morning at Lewiston, hastily fired a volley upon them, which injured several and produced some confusion.

Having felt the force opposed to him in this manner for a few minutes, and satisfied himself that it was there to fight where it stood, he formed the 11th and 22nd United States Infantry for a direct frontal attack, and detailed the 9th and 25th to turn both flanks simultaneously.

The centre attack was not pushed with vigor, and was easily repelled by the artillery fire alone. But upon the left of the line, the Americans soon obtained a decided advantage. Observing the belt of unoccupied ground next the river, Scott ordered Colonel T. S. Jesup, with the 25th U. S. Infantry, to make a wide circuit through the undergrowth in that direction, and, by turning Drummond's flanks attempt to gain possession of the Queenston Road in the rear. Favored by the approach of night, and concealed from view by thickets, that regiment made its way unperceived into the interval, and suddenly attacking the battalion of Incorporated Militia in flank at the moment it was attempting to take ground further to the left, threw it into confusion, and took four officers and nearly a hundred men prisoners. Following up his advantage, Jesup advanced rapidly as far as the road, which he occupied in force, and the troop of the 19th, finding a strong body of infantry firing upon them from the enclosures on their flank, retired as far as Muddy Run. Nor was this the full measure of his success. First, Captain Loring, A. D. C., to General Drummond, riding to the rear to bring up the cavalry, was captured, then General Riall, himself bleeding from a wound, which subsequently caused the amputation of his arm, fell into his power in the same manner. The prisoners were promptly hurried from the field, and when their rank was announced to the remainder of the brigade, it became the signal for loud and prolonged cheering along the entire line, caught up and repeated by Ripley's and Porter's advancing columns.

Scarcely had these sounds died away when a shell from the British battery struck, one of Towson's ammunition wagons, which instantly blew up with a great explosion. This incident was hailed in turn by exulting shouts from the successful gunners, who redoubled their efforts in consequence, and the American pieces were speedily overpowered by their fire, and almost, if not quite, silenced. The remnant of the Incorporated Militia quickly recovered from its confusion, and re-formed in rear of the 89th, fronting the Queenston road, and covering the flank and rear of the troops in Lundy's Lane. Their musketry soon compelled Jesup to relinquish the position he had secured, and communication with the rear was re-opened. Lieut.-Col. Robinson being dangerously wounded, the command of this corps devolved on Major James Kerby.

A general advance of the 9th, 11th and 22nd Infantry converging upon the British guns, forced the 89th and the detachments of the 8th and Royal Scots to advance to their support, and was not repelled without a sharp struggle, in which both parties suffered heavily. Lieut. Hemphill, leading the Royals was killed, and the command of his party, the remnant of three companies, devolved on another young subaltern, Lieut. Fraser. Colonel Morrison was so severely wounded that he was carried from the field, and Major Clifford assumed command of the 89th, while Captain Campbell, commanding the 8th, had his horse killed beneath him. Their assailants finally retired, leaving the slope strewn with their dead and wounded, and were rallied with difficulty under cover of their artillery. The 22nd in particular broke in great confusion, running athwart the front of the 11th when in the act of wheeling, and carrying away several platoons of that regiment in its flight. Their officers failed to check the fugitives until they had gained the shelter of the woods, and only a part of them could then be induced to return to the scene of action.

Biddle's, William's, and Ritchie's batteries, containing in all six guns, advanced to Towson's assistance, and the artillery-duel was resumed. Notwithstanding the disparity in numbers, the British guns still maintained a decided superiority. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded, the latter mortally, and Towson is said to have lost twenty-seven out of thirty-six men serving his three guns.

Colonel McRee, an engineer officer, who was acting as General Brown's chief of staff, finally assured the American commander that he need not hope for ultimate success unless the hill was taken and the guns silenced. By this time the entire available force of his division had arrived. Scott's brigade was much exhausted and diminished in numbers. Accordingly Ripley's brigade, consisting of the 1st, 21st, and 23rd Infantry, besides detachments of the 2nd Rifles, 17th and 19th Infantry, was formed from the main attack, having Porter's brigade, composed of Dobbin's and Swift's New York regiments, Fenton's Pennsylvania battalion, and Willcock's Canadian Volunteers, upon their left, while the 25th U. S. I. still maintained its position in the thickets on the right.

For a few minutes firing almost ceased, and this interval was employed by the American artillerymen in bringing forward fresh supplies of ammunition, and a daring officer Captain Brooke, stealthily crept up the hillside until within a few yards of the British battery, with a dark lantern, which he suspended in a thicket, as a guide for his gunners to sight their pieces, for although the moon had risen, its light was

rendered faint and uncertain by drifting clouds of smoke and dust, and the position of either line of battle was simply indicated at intervals by the flash of their guns.

The action had now continued for nearly three hours, and the British force had been reduced by casualties, to less than twelve hundred officers and men, and its situation seemed perilous in the extreme. It could no longer be a matter of doubt that they had to contend with the entire American army. But relief, though long delayed, was now close at hand. After the original order of march had been countermanded, the troops encamped at Twelve Mile Creek and remained quietly in their quarters until afternoon. Then the order was received from General Riall, directing a portion of the force to advance immediately to his support by way of DeCew's Falls and Lundy's Lane. This meant a march of fourteen miles under a burning sun. Col. Scott instantly obeyed, taking with him seven companies of his own regiment, (the 103rd,) seven companies of the Royal Scots, Lieutenant Colonel John Gordon, five companies of the 104th, Capt. R. Leonard, and a few picked men selected from some of the Militia battalions in camp, under Lieut. Col. Hamilton, yet owing to the weak state of the companies, his entire column did not muster more than 1,200 of all ranks. This force was accompanied by three 6-pounders and a 5½-inch howitzer, under Captain MacKonochie. The advance-guard was already within three miles of the field of battle when they were met by an orderly bearing a second despatch from General Riall, announcing that he was about to retire upon Queenston, and directing them to retreat at once. They had retraced their steps for nearly four miles, when the roar of cannon burst upon their ears and they were overtaken by a second messenger, summoning them to the scene of conflict. It was accordingly nine o'clock before the head of this column, weary and footsore with a march of more than twenty miles almost without a halt, came in view on the extreme right.

Already the American artillery had opened fire with renewed vigor to cover the advance of their infantry, and Porter's riflemen were creeping stealthily forward on the right, in the hope of turning that flank also. Drummond promptly foiled this movement by directing the flank companies of the 104th to prolong his fighting line in that direction while he formed the remainder of Colonel Scott's column into a second line in rear of Lundy's Lane. These dispositions had not yet been entirely completed when a large body of infantry was again observed advancing upon the artillery. The troops destined for the result of the battery, composed of the 1st U. S. Infantry, Colonel R. C. Nicholas, detachments of the 17th and 19th, and the whole of the 21st, under command of Colonel James Miller, and the 23rd, Major D. McFarland, had quietly been formed in the hollow, where their movements were concealed by the darkness, and now advanced silently in line, two deep, under cover of the discharge of all their artillery, which concentrated its fire upon the British guns. These battalions mustered upward of 1,400 bayonets. The position occupied by the 1st U. S. Infantry, forming the centre of their line, compelled their regiment, fresh from a tour of uneventful garrison duty in the distant frontier posts on the banks of Mississippi, to climb the slope in the face of the point-blank fire of the British guns, while Miller's and McFarland's commands moved obliquely toward the battery from either flank. Scarcely had it begun to feel the effects of the artillery-fire when this regiment gave way, and before it could be rallied by its officers, had retired a considerable distance in much disorder. The 23rd, on the right, advanced with more firmness and lost heavily. Its commander was killed, and the line began to waver, but order was soon restored by the efforts of General Ripley, who directed its movements in person after the fall of the Major McFarland. Miller's approach on the opposite flank was screened from the view of the gunners by the church and an almost continuous line of thickets fringing both sides of a shallow ravine. Within twenty yards of the guns, a stout log-fence, skirted with shrubby and small trees, crossed their path and furnished convenient cover. Up to this point their advance had been unobserved by the artillerymen, whose attention was riveted upon the batteries below. Halting there for a moment, they fired a single effective volley, and rushing forward, gained the summit, but with heavy loss. A few gunners still clung desperately to their pieces and were bayoneted while striving to reload, and the battery, which had been worked so effectively against them was in their possession. Both the 24-pounders and one of Captain MacKonochie's 6-pounders which had since been brought up to their assistance were taken. Lieut. Tomkins and a few of his men were also captured and temporarily confined in the church, whence most of them soon succeeded in making their escape.

Nearly at the same instant, Ripley came up with the 23rd, and the 1st, having reformed, advanced to their support. Ripley's entire brigade was thus massed on a very narrow front, on the south side of Lundy's Lane, between the church and the Queenston road. Scott's brigade, with the exception of the 25th Infantry, was rapidly brought forward and took post on their left, while Porter's volunteers distantly engaged the flank companies of the 10th, and the wing of the Royals.

Miller's movement had been at once so rapid, unexpected and successful, that the British guns were in his possession before the infantry in rear had time to advance for their protection. These detachments then hastily advanced to recover them, but after a very severe contest were repelled with heavy loss. At short range, the cartridges of the Americans, containing in addition to the ordinary bullets, three large buck-shot, were particularly effective. Lieutenant Fraser, on whom the command of the Royals in this part of the field had devolved, was wounded, and the survivors of his detachment rallied around the colors of the 89th. The 103rd being ordered to advance, marched in the darkness directly into the centre of the enemy's new position, and were first made aware of its mistake by a crushing volley, which threw them into great disorder. While the struggle was in progress for the possession of the hill, the American artillery limbered up and advanced to take up a new position upon the summit. In the attempt, they met with sudden and unforeseen disaster. While their howitzer was ascending the slope at a gallop, a volley of musketry brought nearly all the drivers at

once to the ground, and the horses missing their riders and leapt without guidance, plunged frantically forward into the opposing ranks, where they were soon secured. Several of their caissons were blown up at different times by congreve rockets, and some of their pieces silenced for want of ammunition. Many horses were also killed or disabled while manoeuvring.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

## An Encounter With a Panther.

The Poona correspondent of the *Times of India*, of Bombay, describes an exciting adventure with a wounded panther. Mr. Pridaux, an Assistant Commissioner in the Berars, went out after some deer, on April 2, about 14 miles from Yeotmal, in the Wun district. While on the track he heard some rustling in the long grass not far from where he was. Looking in the direction from which the noise proceeded, he observed a large panther moving slowly along in the grass. He levelled his rifle and fired. The panther fell and dragged himself a few yards, and lay there groaning. Going close up to the spot to see what effect his shot had had, Mr. Pridaux saw that the panther had been very badly hit in the stomach. He made sure that the animal was dying, but suddenly the wounded panther jumped up, charged Mr. Pridaux, and sprang upon him. Mr. Pridaux aimed a second shot at his head, but in the excitement of the moment he missed his mark; the bullet struck the panther in the hind leg, shattering the bone. To save his throat, Mr. Pridaux put up his left arm which the panther seized, and man and brute rolled over. The panther mauled Mr. Pridaux's left arm very badly. Fortunately he had a plucky native hunter with him. The latter stuck his spear into the panther's throat and pinned him to the ground. This gave Mr. Pridaux the opportunity of regaining his feet, and having got up, he seized his rifle and soon despatched the animal with a third bullet. Then, having bound up his wounds, he mounted his pony and rode back 14 miles into Yeotmal, where he was fortunate enough to find medical assistance. Unhappily, however, fever soon set in, and the arm began to mortify, but by the latest accounts the patient was doing well. The whole of the soft part of the upper arm and a part of the biceps muscle have been cut away, the wound being about 5in. long by 3in. broad.

## The Output of the Royal Mint.

According to the report of the Deputy Master of the Mint for 1891, the Coinage Act of last session has proved a very important step towards placing the general restoration of the gold coinage upon a satisfactory footing. Although the issues of silver coin in 1891 fell short of those of either of the two preceding years, they were still considerably above the average; while the exceptional demand for bronze coin experienced in 1890 was maintained uninterruptedly during 1891. The total coinage was, however, much less than that of 1890, there being nearly a million less coined of gold; and of the £6,723,648 of gold coined £543,992 only was in half-sovereigns. A large increase is noted in the number of colonial coinages coined, and during the year imperial and colonial coins of 31 different denominations were struck. The total number of good pieces struck was 87,686,317—by far the largest ever executed in one year—the aggregate value being upwards of £8,325,000. It is stated that the issue of florins was almost entirely suspended in 1891, in consequence of complaints as to the superabundance of such coins, and the announcement is made that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Coinage Committee no four-shilling pieces have been issued since the early part of last year.

## Tobacco in India.

It is not, as among the English, that only some men smoke tobacco; but, with rare exceptions, all natives, men and women, indulge in this weed in some form or other. The hookah is smoked as a refreshment and sign of fellowship by the natives of India, and not merely as a luxury. When a group of natives are seated together, and, as is the custom, the hookah is passed round to each in turn, it is considered very bad manners for any one to decline to have a few puffs. If the hookah is thus refused in a friend's house, or while one is the guest of another, it is regarded as an insult. If, for any reason, a native is put out of caste, the fact is strictly marked by his former caste-fellows' refusal to smoke with him; and any one who eats, drinks, or smokes with an out-caste is himself out-casted.

It is curious how, while the Englishman who speaks of "smoking" tobacco, the Chinaman and native of Bengal speak of "eating" it, and the native of Northern India speaks of "drinking" tobacco, thus indicating that they regard it as one of the necessities of life. Tobacco grows freely in India, which may account for its cheapness and universal use.

## A Big Trouble.

The great sciatic nerve, when disturbed, can give more pain than any nerve of the human body. Fortunately it is easily subdued by the right remedy at the right time. On this subject Mr. William Blagden of Edensor, Bakewell, Derbyshire, Eng., writes: "I was a sufferer from sciatica for two years. St. Jacobs Oil completely cured me when all other remedies had failed."

## Roast Pork in China.

The Chinese are ahead of the world in the preparation of roast pork for the table. After it has come out of the oven it is hung in the smoke of various aromatic herbs, which gives it a delicious flavor and robs it of the porky taste which is offensive to some palates.

# Scrofula

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## Sensational Murder of a Ballet Girl.

A murder of a most sensational character was discovered at Warsaw on Friday night. A ballet girl named Josephine Gerlach was found at her lodgings in Uspolna Street with terrible wounds on her head and body, the injuries having evidently been inflicted by some heavy blunt instrument. The poor girl's cries attracted attention, and a woman who was seen escaping from the house was pursued and arrested. She proved to be a lady of position named Boguslawa Brezicka, and in her pocket was found a heavy hammer with blood and hair clinging to it. She also had a dagger, and in her pocket was a sum of four thousand roubles. Brezicka, who is 45 years old, is married and the mother of four children. It is alleged that she was on friendly terms with the ballet girl, and the police version is that robbery was the motive for the crime, but on the other hand there are certain circumstances pointing to jealousy as being the factor which brought about the outrage. Gerlach died from her injuries soon after being found.

# "German Syrup"

Martinsville, N. J., Methodist Parsonage. "My acquaintance with your remedy, Boschee's German Syrup, was made about fourteen years ago, when I contracted a Cold which resulted in a Hoarseness and a Cough which disabled me from filling my pulpit for a number of Sabbaths. After trying a Physician, without obtaining relief—I cannot say now what remedy he prescribed—I saw the advertisement of your remedy and obtained a bottle. I received such quick and permanent help from it that whenever we have had Throat or Bronchial troubles since in our family, Boschee's German Syrup has been our favorite remedy and always with favorable results. I have never hesitated to report my experience of its use to others when I have found them troubled in like manner." REV. W. H. HAGGARTY, of the Newark, New Jersey, M. E. Conference, April 25, '90. A Safe Remedy.

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## Can a Small Boy Lift Six Tons?

Mr. Gosse, in his "World of Wonders," relates the following remarkable story of a beetle, and gives ingenious comparisons: "The three-horned beetle has just astonished me by proving its wonderful bodily strength. When it was first brought to me, having no box immediately at hand, I was at a loss where to put him until I could find time to kill and preserve him. At last a happy thought struck me. There was a quart bottle of milk sitting on the table, the bottom of the bottle having a hollow in it and large enough to allow my prize to stand erect in it. I soon put him in his glass case prison and turned to my work.

"Presently, to my great surprise, the bottle began to move slowly, and then gradually settled down to a smooth gliding motion across the table. I instantly divined the cause. It was being propelled by the muscular power of the imprisoned insect beneath. The weight of the bottle and its contents could not have been less than three and a half pounds, while the weight of the beetle could not have been any way near a half an ounce.

"Thus I was watching the strange sight of a living creature moving 112 times its own weight under the most disadvantageous circumstances. A better notion than figures can convey will be obtained of this feat by supposing a lad of 12 years to be imprisoned under the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. That bell weighs six tons. If a boy of the age mentioned could push within and cause the bell to glide along the pavement his strength would not be equal in proportion to that of the beetle under the bottle!

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