UPPER CANADA.

The following paragraphs are extracted from the Memoir of a most intelligent gentleman who had frequently traversed the Peninsula of Upper Canada, and had observed every thing there for himself.—It is sufficient to state that the original paper was laid before our government by Dr. Mitchell, at the request of one of the most able and patriotic statesmen of the North:

"The most beautiful section of Upper Canada is the Peninsula south of the river Severn, which empties into the bay of Gloucester in Huron Lake, and of the river Trent, which empties into Ontario & Kingston. The province is denominated *Upper*, because the Niagara and St. Laurence rivers run north and north east, and lake Erie tho' but 34 miles distant, elevates its surface 250 feet above Ontario.

The rivers of the Peninsula, exclusive of the boundaries are the Thames, Escartic and Grand river. The two former run south west into Lake Saint Clair; the latter south east into Ontario. The *Chippewa* creek empties into the Niagara about three miles above the Falls. The *Credit* empties between the head of Ontario and York; the Don and the Humber into Ontario near York. The Thames is navigable for vessels of 70 tons for 19 miles from its mouth, and for vessels of any burthen ten or twelve miles. Boat navigation is good to the mills at Delaware. Of these rivers the Thames is the largest, though none of them is very considerable.

Detroit (the strait) river is 57 chains wide at the Fort Detroit, and is much narrower at Malden by occasion of an island opposite that fort. The channel here is within effectual musket shot of the shore.

The Niagara at the garrison is wider than at Detroit; it is probably about half a mile wide. At Black Rock a flat bottomed boat or scow crosses the river in seven minutes.

Mountains of any importance are not seen in the Peninsula. An elevation which forms Genessee falls, the ridge roads, Queenstown heights, and terminating a little to west of the head of Ontario, about 65 miles from Niagara, is emphatically stiled "the Mountain." It presents from its brow the most extensive view of the plains at its foot, and of Ontario, which approaches and recedes from 1 to 7 miles from its base. From the summit of this mountain to Erie, the country is level—the traveller meets with no hills from Niagara to Detroit save the ravines here and there formed by streams or rivulets.

The N E planter, travelling west, takes leave of hills in the county of Onandage in N. York State, and sees no more until Detroit is in his rear.

The principal roads from Erie to Niagara, from Niagara to Detroit and Dundas Street, which commences at the lower Fort St. Lawrence and running along Ontario by its head, joins the old Detroit road in Oxford, on the Thames.

From Erie to the Ferry opposite Black Rock, is 2 miles, and from thence to Fort George or Newark is 35 miles. The road is perfectly level (excepting the easy descent at Queenstown) and runs upon the bank of the river (excepting from the falls to Queenstown) thro' a delightful cultivated country. Between the Chippewa and Erie, is a small creek crossed by a bridge.

The Chippewa is a slow black stream, coming from a level, fertile country, to empty into the Niagara at the village of Chippewa, 3 miles above the falls. The creek being deep and unfordable is crossed a few chains from its mouth, by a bridge of about 150 or 200 feet long. Ten or 12 rods above the bridge on the north bank of the creek, is a block house, manned in time of peace, by a sergeant's guard.

The furs and merchandizes which are brought from the north west, drop down to some place within a few miles at Chippewa, whence they are carried to this spot & deposited; the stream of the Niagara below this creek being too rapid for navigating in safety. The Niagara is here 2 miles wide; yet there is a ferry; but the ferrymen cautiously ascend the stream to the point of Navy island, half a mile above Chippewa, before they cross to Fort Schlosser. The Chippewa, though a considerable stream cannot affect to mingle its dark waters, with the pellucid current of the majestic Niagara for one mile and a half. It is confined to a narrow path along the shore, and the line is as definite between the waters as between the land and water. The passage of this creek in a hostile manner, except on the ice may be disputed. Nature opposes no other obstacle in a march to fort George by this road.

Fort George or Newark, is approached by three roads; one from Queenstown; one by the lake, from the creek called *The Twelve* (the number given to it by the surveyors) and another by the middle road through the swamp from *The Ten* (another creek so called.) Between Niagara and the head of Ontario, are creeks called the 8, 10, 15, 16, 20, 30, 40, and 50th. The 15th, 16, and 20th form deep ravines.

No road leads directly from Erie to Detroit. One road turns west from the falls through Beaver dam and the Beech woods; one from Queenstown to the Mills; and one from Niagara by the lake. The two last unite at the *Twelve*. The first joins these at the *Twenty*. At the *forty* 30 miles from Niagara, and 20 from Queenstown and the Falls, is a village, mills, &c. At the *Fifty*, 40 miles from Niagara the road to York inclines to the right, & 7 miles thence crosses the beach which divides the head of Ontario from the Little Lake or Burlington Bay; then turns to the right for York, which is about 40 miles from the head of the lake and 180 from Kingston. The Detroit road continues from the *Fifty* to Ancaster at the head of the lake; from thence it bears south of west, to Grand River; crosses the Burford Plains (eleven miles wide): and joining Dundas street, on the Governor's Road, as it is called, touches the Thames in Oxford. Thence it pursues its crossings at Delaware, and leads to its mouth; and so along the south side of Lake St. Clair to Detroit. The road is on the left bank of Detroit level to Malden, 18 miles.

Coot's Paradise, at the head of Ontario, is nearly midway between Kingston and the head of St. Lawrence and Detroit; being 220 miles from Kingston and 208 from Detroit. The distance from Niagara to this place is 40 miles. From it Detroit bears S. W. Kingston N. E. and Niagara E. S. E.

From the falls of Niagara to Detroit is 254 miles. It is the same from Niagara garrison. From Buffaloe to Detroit on the south or American side of Erie, 340 miles is the shortest reputed distance. Mellish (a very incorrect map) makes it 375 from Buffaloe to Detroit. On the north or British side of Erie, it is 277 miles.

From the Capitol in Albany to Niagara, by the Zonewanto swamp, is 285½ miles.—The distance is 16 miles less by the great western turnpike to Cherry Valley, & thence by turnpike to Manlius Square, where it unites with the Gennessee turnpike. This is the route of the military express from Albany to Niagara, which proceeds at a rate not less than eight miles, and not exceeding ten the hour. From Albany to Queenstown by Cherry Valley and Zonewanto Swamp is 292 miles. Of this distance 208 (to Canandaigua) miles are turnpike. The remainder save 10 or 12 miles, is an excellent road. Most of the road from Niagara to Detroit is also excellent. The shortest practicable road from the Capital in Albany to Detroit, is therefore 539½ miles; *via* Buffaloe, Presquile Scioto, Sandusky, Miami, &c. it amounts to 638. If you go to Buffaloe, & then through the Province, you will add 23 miles to the distance, as before noted.

The military road from Malden to Niagara, would be to retrace the steps of General Brock, to wit, by water from Malden to Long Point, thence across the plains 20 miles to the village of the Six Nations on the Grand River—here is a bridge three miles above the village, or the river is fordable—thence it is 28 miles to the head of Ontario, 6 miles of which are woods & bad travelling; the remainder plains.

In respect to population, the settlements are from Erie to Fort George on the Niagara, and extending up the Chipeway, and west of the falls through the Beaver dam to the head of Lake Ontario. The people are chiefly from Pennsylvania and N. Jersey; a considerable portion from New England & some from Scotland and England. A portion of these inhabitants went from the United States during the revolution; but by far the greater number since that period. These compose the Canadian militia, who distinguished themselves at Detroit and Lewistown as mentioned in Governor Prevost's general order.

From York on the bay of Toranto the settlements extend along the waters to Lower Canada: and from two to twenty miles back, thinly, and no village. From Kingston to York about two thirds of the inhabitants are Americans.

The settlements on the Grand River, which empties into Erie, are all by Americans mostly from Pennsylvania and New Jersey; some from New England and York.

The left bank of Detroit is settled by French Canadians.

The inhabitants are well disposed toward the U. States, and are intimately related to them by consanguinity, customs, language & interest. To oppose this powerful and national inclination, the ingenius Brock told them (see his proclamation of 22d July 1812) that in case of conquest, the U. S. would cede them to France, in fulfilment of an existing stipulation made with France as a consideration of her aid to the U. S. during the revolution; and if not so ceded, they would not, however be admitted to the full privileges of the states; and that they would be secluded from the ocean by the policy of America & if not so restricted, their commerce be nothing without the favor & permission of G. Britain.

It is perfectly astonishing that these plausible, ingenious and influential assertions of Brock, have never been answered and done away by the American generals. Designing persons also impress upon uninformed minds the belief that private property (as farms) will be confiscated to the conquerors. This has great effect.

The Indian tribes of the Peninsula, (the Six Nations) are officially told that they are invaded as well as the territory of the whites and that it is a common cause; whereas the U. S. have declined the offered services of friendly Indians, because it is not their quarrel in this cause. We recognise them, as regards war, a sovereign and independent people, totally unconnected with G. Britain. In this light the Six Nations were treated by the French. It was only by sinister policy, by imposition, deception and state juggling that the British arrogated supremacy over the six nations, and treated them as subjects. The perfidy and injustice of the British government respecting lands, caused the most serious discords between the late Colonel Brant and Governor Simcoe. These likewise have passed unnoticed by the American officers. The opinion of the Canadians is that the intrinsic value of land would be much enhanced by their independence or annexation to the U. States; but that the value of their produce would be deteriorated.

No census has been taken in Upper Canada. On the authority of Hariot's travels, it has been estimated at 80 000 in 1806. I think that exceeds the real number in 1812. There were on the 20th July, 1812, on duty in Upper Canada, one third of all the militia, between the ages of sixteen and sixty; to wit: at Oswegatchie 760, at Kingston 500, York 450, Niagara 750 and at Malden about 300, making in the whole 2700. There are thus in the province 7100 militia men or persons fit for military duty between the ages of 16 and 60. From this the number of inhabitants may be estimated. Suppose one seventh within those ages be excused from duty, or 1000. This makes 8100. Then add an equal number for the males under sixteen and above sixty, equal to 16 200. And afterwards an equal number for the females and you will have a grand aggregate of 32,400 for the whole free white population. I am confident, the free white inhabitants, exclusive of the army, cannot exceed 50,000.

On the 20th July there were at Niagara 500 regulars & no more; at York 50 (invalids); and at Malden 180. In time of peace there are about 300 men at Fort George; 12 at Chippewa, 20 at Erie, & 100 at Malden or about one battallion in all.

The militia are all well armed with new muskets; & have plenty of munitions of war. The Indians within the Peninsula cannot muster more than 600 warriors. I have seen the forces of the six nations reviewed by Colonel Brandt, at their annual parade on the 1st May, and since that period they have not increased. The Mohocks (residing at Grand River) are the most warlike. They are at present chiefly directed by NAPTON, a native whiteman of the lower province, who is a tolerable English scholar, and well versed in the Indian language. After having been patronized by the famous Brandt, he was adopted and made a chief.

The climate of the Peninsula, particularly in the vicinity of the lakes is as mild as the vicinities of New York and Philadelphia. There is little snow and the air is salubrious. Though the country is very level there is little stagnant water. The waters of the Lakes & Great Rivers are quite pellucid. The lesser streams are dark, though the waters of the country are healthy, and all abound with great variety of fine fish. Peaches, pears and the delicious melons are tolerated by the climate, somewhat above 100 miles west of Albany, and acquire more and more flavor by favor of soil and climate, westward to Detroit. The left bank of the Niagara is pretty well cultivated, and the soil though less fertile than the interior yields corn and rye and from 18 to 24 bushels of wheat an acre. Beaver Dams a few miles west from the falls, is better cultivated, by farmers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and may be known by the clover fields high fences, and good barns of stone, where the materials can be had. Here & throughout the Peninsula, bees succeed surprisingly.

The substratum of the plains is limestone and Gypsum, or Plaster of Paris is found there.

Besides fruits and wheat, Upper Canada furnishes to the British great store of provisions for Quebec, Halifax and the West Indies, and the greatest possible encouragement is held out for raising hemp for their navy. Great stress is also laid upon the Canadians as observatories upon the United States.

CHILLICOTHE, Feb. 2.

HORRID DISASTER.

Late last evening an express arrived in town, bearing letters from Gen Harrison to gov. Meigs. A number of letters have been also received from officers in the army, which contain the melancholy account of the total defeat of the advanced detachment under the command of gen Winchester. Of the engagement at the river Raisin, on the afternoon of the 18th Jan. and the taking possession of that place by the force under col. Lewis, the public are already informed. Gen. Winchester reinforced Col. Lewis with about 250 men on the 20th. On the morning of the 22d, a day break, the American force was attacked by the British and Indians. The line was formed as expeditiously as was practicable, from the irregular manner in which our troops were encamped.—To the centre were opposed the British, with from 3 to 6 pieces of cannon—the Indians on the flanks. The Americans are said to have fought bravely until they had exhausted their ammunition of which gen. Winchester had not taken the precaution of supplying the troops; and they were scarcely able to fire five rounds. Those who surrendered on the field of battle, are said to have been made prisoners, by the British, while those who attempted to make their escape were pursued by the Indians on horseback, tomahawked and scalped. The slaughter was great, and Kentucky has lost many valuable citizens and brave soldiers. About 40 only have arrived at the head quarters of gen. Harrison.—The opinions are various as to the force of the enemy—they are generally supposed, however, to have been 1600 strong. Gen. Winchester was killed and his body mangled in the most horrid manner by the Indians. He is said to have lodged three fourths of a mile from camp the night preceding the engagement; and his officers were principally at private houses. The reinforcement sent forward by Gen. Harrison, had not arrived at the river Raisin, at the time of the defeat, and were ordered back to the Rapids of the Miami, where they arrived on the evening of the 22d. On the morning of the 23d, at 2 o'clock, a retreat was ordered by Gen Harrison.—the troops have retired back as far as the Portage river, at the crossings of Hull's road, where they are well supplied with provisions. The movement of Gen Winchester to the river Raisin, was to secure a considerable quantity of provisions, and to protect the inhabitants—it was without orders from Gen. Harrison. Altho' this defeat may, for a short time, retard the progress of the army, the country may, notwithstanding, safely confide in the exertions of the Gen. Had not his well arranged system been partially frustrated by the precipitate movement of Gen. Winchester, it would to all human probability, have insured success.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Since the above was issued, another express has arrived in town, bearing a letter from Gen. Harrison to Governor Meigs, who has politely favored us with the following extract, dated

Head Quarters, Carrying River
24th Jan. 1813.

Dear Sir,

The event of which I expressed so much apprehension in my letter to you, from Lower Sandusky, has happened—The detachment under col. Lewis was reinforced by Gen. Winchester, with 250 men. He attended it, and took the command at the river Raisin on the 20th, and on the 22d, he was attacked at reveille, by a considerable British and Indian force with six pieces of artillery; the troops being surprised and the ground unfavorable, had but little opportunity of forming to advantage. They were surrounded and broke in 20 or 25 minutes. A major and captain & about 25 privates were all that effected their escape.

I had but 360 men with me, about 3 miles above the Rapids, where the news first reached me, I immediately ordered them to prepare to march, and set out with my staff to overtake a detachment of 300 men that had set out that morning for the river Raisin. I overtook them at the distance of 6 miles, but before the other troops (colonel Andrews' Ohio regiment) came up, it was ascertained that the defeat was complete, and it was the unanimous opinion of gens. Payne, Perkins, & the field officers, that we should return.—A detachment to the amount of 170 of the most active men, was forward with directions to proceed as far as possible to assist those who were fortunate enough to escape, there were however but few; the snow was so deep that the fugitives were entirely exhausted in running a few miles; those that did get off effected it, by turning down to the lake and secreting themselves. I believe there were not more than 40 or 50 that got a mile from the scene of action, and the greater part of them were overtaken.

Never were the affairs of any army in a more prosperous situation than ours before the unfortunate step of marching the detachment to the river Raisin; it was made not only without any authority from me, but in opposition to my views. Every thing in my power was, however, done to prevent any disaster, and reinforcements were pushed on with as much rapidity as possible; (major Cogrove's battalion, the first in the army,) was within 14 miles of the scene of action, when he heard of the defeat, & 300 regular troops were also on their way. I remained at the Rapids with one regiment only. In justice to gen. Winchester, I must observe, that I have understood that the measure (marching the detachment to the river Raisin) was forced upon him by his officers, but, whatever may have been the cause, and however great the calamity, both as it regards the nation and individuals, it is certainly not irreparable. By the unanimous advice of the general and field officers, I took this position yesterday, for the purpose of forming a speedy junction with the troops in the rear, and to cover the very valuable convoy of artillery and stores that are coming from Upper Sandusky. Unless the weather is very unfavorable, I shall be at the Rapids again in 4 or 5 days, and shall certainly give the enemy an opportunity of measuring their strength with us in another contest.—For myself I feel no doubt as to the result, & if I can judge of the disposition of the troops, from the manner in which they received an address from me yesterday, a desire of avenging their lost companions and retrieving their country's disgrace is predominant passion that occupies their minds.

I know not what proportion the prisoners of gen Winchester's late troops bear to the killed; some of the French who have come in report the latter at 500. The detachment amounted to near 1000.

I am, with much regard, dear sir,
Your humble servant,
WM. H. HARRISON.

His Exc, Gov. Meigs,

[The following is an extract of the letter alluded to in the commencement of the above letter of gen. Harrison.—It was dated Lower Sandusky, January 10, 1813.]

"Gen. Winchester has been at the Rapids since the 10th—he has pushed a detachment to the river Raisin. I have not learned the precise object. I shall set out this morning, and reach his camp this night. I have strong fears that colonels Lewis and Allen may be overpowered."

LAW OF OHIO.

An Act for the encouragement of Volunteers in the North Western Army of the United States.

WHEREAS in consequence of the lamentable disaster, which has happened to that part of the North Western Army of the United States, lately under the command of Gen James Winchester, it becomes indispensably necessary that prompt and efficient measures should be adopted to carry on the expedition contemplated by the army under the command of Gen Wm. H. Harrison, and whereas it may be impracticable to recruit and organize an adequate corps of the militia of this state, at so early a period as to reinforce the North Western Army, prior to the expiration of the term of service of the brigades under the command of Gen Tupper and Gen. Perkins; and notwithstanding their valor and patriotism yet considering the privations and sufferings those men have endured, it is unreasonable to expect or require of them to continue in service, after the expiration of the term aforesaid, without making them additional compensation:

Therefore,

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That in case the term of service of any of the militia of this state, now under the command of General William Henry Harrison, should expire prior to his receiving a reinforcement, he is hereby authorised to accept their services for any longer period not exceeding two months; and provided the whole or any part of such militia shall volunteer, and subject themselves to the orders of the commander in chief of the North Western Army, to perform such services as he may require of them, a bounty at the rate of twelve dollars per month, shall be paid out of the treasury of this state, to each non-commissioned officer, musician and private of the militia of this state now in the service of the U. States, who shall volunteer and continue in the service aforesaid, in their respective corps; and the bounty so allowed, shall be apportioned and paid to such volunteers, for and according to the time they shall respectively continue to serve after the expiration of their present term of service.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That a sum not exceeding forty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid out of any money in the treasury of this state not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of any non commissioned officers, musicians and privates, who may serve as volunteers, agreeably to the provisions of the first sec. of this act; and the paymaster of any detachment of such volunteers, shall be entitled to receive bills from the auditor of public accounts, payable at the treasury; and the auditor is hereby required to issue the same, on such paymaster producing to him the pay rolls of any such detachment, duly certified by the commander in chief of the North Western Army.

JOHN POLLOCK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
THOMAS KIRKER,
Speaker of the Senate.

February 2, 1813.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.
28th January, 1813.

GENTLEMEN,

A publication signed "P B Porter" has appeared in sundry public prints, in which the writer professes to give a true account of the prominent transactions of the 28th November and first of December, at Black Rock.—Some facts are truly stated; but wherever the writer gives *numbers*, his statements are, (I must presume wilfully) incorrect.

He states that on the 27th Nov there were collected near Black Rock 4500 *effective* men under my command; that on the 28th, 2000 or 2600 were embarked; that on the morning of the 1st December, 4000 men, without order or restraint, were discharging their muskets at the navy yard.

I affirm that on the 27th November, there were collected in the neighbourhood of Black Rock not more than 3500 *effective* men, non commissioned officers and privates, of every corps under my command; not more than 1500 of these were liable to cross the Niagara, according to opinions generally received.* On the 28th there were 1050 good troops embarked, and also so many irregular volunteers as occupied five boats, estimated at 150. On the morning of the 1st December, the number of men armed with muskets who were at the navy yard, embarked or not embarked, did not exceed 200 men.

This statement is as correct as I can make it; and is essentially correct.

He says he is informed that general Tannehill's volunteers were ready to cross. I had in my possession a return shewing that of 150 officers of that brigade only 37 were willing to cross—that only 211 men volunteered unconditionally and 165 on various conditions. A part of Gen. Tannehill's volunteers (I have been told 360) marched to the navy yard by a route I had prescribed, and were prepared to embark. The remainder went to Black Rock by the way of Buffaloe, I presume to be spectators. If they ever for a moment intended to cross the Niagara, that intention was not communicated to me.

If there were 4500 *effective* men near Black Rock, how will General Porter, in his capacity of *contractor*, answer to his country for having on the 30th only 35 barrels of flour on hand, *not two pounds of flour to each man?*

The hostility of General Porter to myself grew out of the *contract*. The troops were starving for provisions;† the officers complained of unfair practices, that damaged flour was forced on them;‡ that the lean beef was stripped of every morsel of fat;‖ that Vinegar, candles and soap were not furnished; and in the sickly state of the camp those wants were severely felt.

Under such circumstances, after making ineffectual requisitions, I was compelled to order purchases to be made.

If Congress desire that our armies should conquer, they will consider that "an army is an edifice of which the basis is the belly;" and they will prescribe some effectual mode of honestly and amply supplying our armies with good and wholesome provisions. They will consider that "the principle of victories is discipline;" and subject to courts martial of regular officers all the irregulars who join an army.

Respectfully your most obd't.
ALEXANDER SMYTH.

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* It is an error to rely on any troops except those who are *bound to fly*. Of Capt. Richardson's company of fifty-seven, and the companies of "Greens" under captains Powers, Dillon, Tate and Walker, there were embarked on the 1st December, only Capt. Tate, two lieutenants and eight men of the Greens.

† For this fact I refer to Col. Winder.

‡ To lieut. col. Boerstler.

‖ To Col Parker.

It is understood that the Presidential Dispatches of the Potomac Steam Boat Company have contracted for a boat with Mr. Fulton, to be in operation in July next.