

by the whole civilized world as an outrage and a violation of the rules governing civilized warfare. The act really had a beneficial effect on the people of America for it caused petty party differences to melt away and the internal strife that had been threatening the integrity of the nation was obliterated in an intense patriotic desire for revenge. The war was shortly afterward brought to an end and the burned public buildings in Washington were gradually replaced by substantial new ones.

Recalling the gallantry and efficiency of the American soldiers in the Revolutionary war it is difficult to understand why, a generation later, a comparatively small British force could deliberately burn the capital and escape unpunished, but the spirit of '76 had largely disappeared by 1814. President Madison was sadly deficient as a war president and his administration in the war of 1812 failed utterly in arousing or organizing the nation's military strength. Although the population numbered 8,000,000 people the country never mustered at any one place a well drilled and organized army of over 10,000 troops. On land the American forces accomplished comparatively little worthy of note except the work done on the Niagara frontier by a gallant little band under the command of General Jacob Brown and later at New Orleans, by Gen. Andrew Jackson and his riflemen. Fortunately for the country a previous administration had built up a formidable little navy and so made it possible for us to strike the enemy some telling blows on the sea.—The Pathfinder.

