

THE WAR.

"LET THE FALLING WORD, THROUGH ALL THE DAY, BE "LIBERTY OR DEATH."

Vol. I.

NEW-YORK.....SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1812.

No. 16.

THE WAR,

IS PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING,
BY S. WOODWORTH & CO.

No. 473 Pearl, late Magazine-Street, N. York.

AT TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM,

PAID QUARTERLY—IN ADVANCE.

COPIES OF LETTERS,

Received at the navy department from captain Porter,
of the United States frigate Essex, of 32 guns.

(Continued from page 68, and concluded.)

At Sea, September 1, 1812.

SIR—On the afternoon of the 30th August, in lat. 36, N. long. 62, W. discovered one of the enemy's frigates standing towards us under a press of sail, apparently with an intention of speaking us. Stood for him under easy sail, with the ship prepared for action; apprehensive that he might not find us in the night, I hoisted a light. At 9 he made a signal, consisting of two flashes and one blue light, apparently about four miles distance from us. I continued to stand on for the point where they were seen until midnight, when not getting sight of the enemy, I concluded that it would be best to heave to for him until day-light, presuming that he had done the same, or that he would at least have kept in our neighborhood; but to my great surprise, and the mortification of my officers and crew, (whose zeal on every occasion excites my admiration) we discovered in the morning that the bird had flown! From the latitude and longitude in which we saw this vessel, and from her fleetness, which enabled her to disappear so soon, I think it not unlikely that it was the *Acasta*, of 50 guns, and 350 men, sent out with so much parade, accompanied by the *Ring-Dove*, of twenty-two guns, to cruise for the *Essex*! Perhaps, however, she went to seek her consort.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
your obedient serv't,
D. PORTER.

Hon. Paul Hamilton, Sec'y of the Navy.

At Sea, Sept. 5, 1812.

SIR—On the 4th inst. off the Tail of St. George's Bank, I discovered two ships of war to the southward, and a brig to the northward—the brig in chase of an American merchant ship, and I have not the slightest doubt of their being enemies—gave chase to the brig, which attempted to get past us to join the rest of the squadron; this we prevented, and compelled her to stand to the northward; continued in chase until we got abreast of the American ship, when we gave over chase, as the wind was getting light and the brig leaving us with her sweeps out. On showing our colors to the American merchant ship, several signal guns were fired by the ships to the southward, which made all sail in chase of us. At 4 P. M. they had gained our wake, and had come up with us very fast. Calculating on making my escape by some manoeuvre in the course of the night, I hoisted American

colors and fired a gun to windward; the ships still continuing to gain on us, and the largest being considerably to windward of the other, and about five miles astern of us, bearing S. by W. I determined to heave about as soon as it grew dark, and in the event of our not being able to pass him, to fire a broadside into him and lay him on board. With this view made every arrangement and preparation, the crew in high spirits, and gave three cheers when the plan was proposed to them. At 20 minutes after 7, hove about and stood S. E. by S. (the wind heading us off the moment we hove in stays) until thirty minutes after 8, when we bore away S. W. without seeing any more of them, which seems the more extraordinary, as a pistol was fired by accident on board this ship at the moment when we must have been at our shortest distance from them. Finding myself thus cut off from New-York and Rhode Island, I made the best of my way for the Delaware.

Considering this escape as a very extraordinary one, I have the honor to inclose you a sketch of the position of the two ships at three different periods, by which you will perceive at once the plan of effecting it.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,
your obedient serv't,
D. PORTER.

Mouth of the Delaware, Sept. 7, 1812.

SIR—In pursuance of your orders of the 24th of June, I sailed from Sandy Hook on the 3d July, shaping my course to the southward. In the lat. of 30, 52, N. lon. 66, 16, W. I captured the brig *Lamprey*, 21 days from Jamaica; by her I received certain intelligence that at the time of her departure, the *Thetis* frigate with specie and a large convoy for England, was to sail on or about the 26th of June, and that several running ships were also on the point of departure. I consequently made every exertion to get off St. Augustine in time to fall in with them, but without effect, as fresh gales prevailed from the southwest, and increased until the 19th of July, when we were compelled to scud.

I succeeded in getting within a few miles as far south as St. Augustine, but was baffled in every attempt to get to the westward; as the gales continued to increase, and as there was no probability of getting there in time to meet the convoy, I concluded it best to endeavor to intercept it on the Banks of Newfoundland, to which place I proceeded, taking Halifax in my way, and although I have been disappointed in my expectations, I hope that the facts above stated, and the services rendered by the *Essex*, may be considered a sufficient apology for departing from the letter of your instructions.

It is much to be regretted that I had not with me a sloop of war at the time I fell in with the convoy of the *Minerva*, (as well as on other important occasions) that the ships of the convoy might be kept in play while I engaged the frigate. Had this been the case, instead of taking only 200 prisoners, includ-

ing the transport's crew, I have not a doubt that we should have made prisoners of the whole of the troops, as well as the frigate's and transport's crews, which would have exceeded 2000 men.

I arrived here this morning and shall proceed as high up as Chester, &c.

I have the honor to be, &c.

D. PORTER.

Hon. Paul Hamilton, &c.

COPY

Of a letter from Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, commanding his Britannic majesty's naval force at Newfoundland, to D. Porter, Esq. commanding the U. S. Frigate *Essex*.

St. Johns, (Newfoundland) }
August 5, 1812. }

SIR—Your letter of the 2d inst. was delivered to me yesterday by Mr. McKnight, Midshipman of the United States Frigate the *Essex*, under your command.

I am sensible of the good disposition that you have evinced to alleviate the distresses of war, and would gladly have embraced your proposal for an exchange of the prisoners that we have respectively made; but I am sorry to say that at the present moment and under the peculiar circumstances of the case, it is in my power to do so.

those instructions from my government which I consider necessary for the guidance of my conduct in respect to any such arrangement; and in the next, the officer whom you charged with the British Prisoners has only delivered to me a list of their names, without producing any of their persons, acquainting me that they had taken the vessel from him, and put into another port of this Island.

I can only therefore assure you that I shall report the matter fully to his majesty's government, transmitting a copy of your letter, and of the list of British Prisoners by which it is accompanied.

I have had the pleasure of forwarding to Halifax the young gentleman you sent to me; an opportunity having already occurred—And I have written to the Commander in Chief on that station, requesting that he will endeavor to provide the means of his conveyance to the United States.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) J. T. DUCKWORTH.

To Capt. Porter,

Commandant of the U. States Frigate the *Essex*.

Extract of a letter from Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth to the Honorable Secretary of the Navy of the United States, dated

St. Johns, (Newfoundland) }
August 31, 1812. }

"A vessel captured, as the *Alert* has been, could not have been vested with the character of a Cartel, until she had entered a port of the nation by which she had been captured, and been regularly fitted out from thence. For

every prize might otherwise be provided with a flag of truce, and proposals for an exchange of prisoners; and rendered thus effectually secure against the possibility of recapture: while the cruising ship would be enabled to keep at sea with an undiminished crew; the carrels being always navigated by the prisoners of war.

"It is utterly inconsistent with the laws of war to recognize the principle upon which this arrangement has been made.

"Nevertheless, I am willing to give a proof at once of my respect for the liberality with which the Capt. of the Essex has acted, in more than one instance towards the British subjects who have fallen into his hands; of the sacred obligation that is always felt, to fulfil the engagements of a British officer; and of my confidence in the disposition of his royal highness the Prince Regent, to allay the violence of war by encouraging a reciprocation of that courtesy by which its pressure upon individuals may be so essentially diminished.

"On the 4th of this month, a Midshipman of the Essex arrived, and presented to me a letter from his captain, proposing an exchange for 86 British prisoners. The midshipman had however been placed alone in the charge of one of the captured vessels, with 86 prisoners, to conduct them to this port. A list of 40 prisoners of the same description, disposed of in the same manner, has been sent to me by the commander of the American private armed schooner the *Rossie*.

"It is incumbent upon me to protest in the strongest manner against the practice of conducting exchanges upon terms like these; and to signify to you that it will be utterly impossible for us to assent to them."

To the veterans who have served their Country during the war of the revolution, and all those who from other causes have been exempted from military duty, the Captain General takes the liberty on this occasion, and in consequence of the act of August respecting Volunteer Corps, to address himself.

The extent to which the sea-coast of this State may be exposed by the events of the war, is uncertain, and it can only be said, that prudence requires every reasonable precaution for its security, and that our means are limited.

The regular troops of the Union may be withdrawn for other objects, and we may be left for a short period to our own defence. The State Militia may also be taken on pressing occasions to act within a neighbouring State, and whatever may be the feelings or wishes of the general government, we may still be left to this reserved force of the State, to repel invasion—or to render this force effectual it must be organized. The legislature, aware of these circumstances, by an act of the late session, have authorised the raising a body of volunteers from the exempted for the defence of the State, and for suppressing insurrections. The manner in which this is to be done, will be examined by every enlightened freeman, and it is presumed, found satisfactory. It is therefore necessary for the Captain General only to remark, that this body of men is to be strictly considered as a body of State Troops, who are not, (under any circumstances) to be marched out of the State—they are to be commanded by company-officers of their own

choosing, together with officers of a higher grade, appointed by the Captain General. They may be raised for the term of three years, or for the war, a period which it is presumed will be much shorter, and are only to be called into the field by state authority, on sudden and pressing emergencies: but no expense is to be incurred by the state, unless the troops shall be called into service.

On this class of the citizens of our state, who have so much power to protect, and who are determined to render that protection effectual, the Captain General now calls for that measure of precaution, which the legislature have judged to be expedient, and solicits them to volunteer their services in the manner proposed for the defence of the State. No cause can be more pure and sacred, it only requires you to stand within your own State, and upon your own threshold, and with one accord to devote yourselves to the defence of your wives, your children, your old family fire-sides, and every other object that can be justly dear to man upon earth.

Dated at Norwich, this 22d Sept. 1812.

By order of his Excellency the Capt. General.

EBEN. HUNTINGTON. *Adj. General.*

State of Connecticut.

THE WAR.

NEW-YORK:

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10, 1812.

List of the general officers of the United States Army
MAJOR-GENERALS.

BRIGADIER-GENERALS.

John Armstrong,	William H. Harrison,
James Wilkinson,	John P. Boyd,
Joseph Bloomfield,	John Chandler,
Thomas Flournoy,	William Hull,
James Winchester,	Wade Hampton.

Quarter-Master-General, Morgan Lewis.

Adjutant-General, Thomas Cushing.

Inspector-General, Alexander Smyth.

As a testimony of approbation of the gallantry displayed by lieutenant Morris, of the navy, in the recent action between the *Constitution* and *Guerriere*, in which he was so severely wounded, the President has directed that he be promoted to the rank of *Captain* in the navy of the United States.

Americans in Canada. Governor Prevost, of Lower Canada, issued a proclamation on the 19th September, by which all citizens of the United States are ordered to quit Canada by the 15th of October; till which time they may depart with their moveable property, by permission of three of the council. After that time, every citizen of the United States, found in Canada, will be treated as a prisoner of war, unless he has taken the oath of allegiance.

Gun-boat No 48, has been wrecked at Newport. When on the rocks, the gun broke loose, and fell to leeward and partly on a boy. In endeavoring to extricate the boy, captain Blodget, 8 men and the lad perished. The other gun-boats on that station were safe.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Our advices from England are down to the 21st of August. Serious riots had again broken out in England, in consequence of the high price of provisions. At Sheffield, on the 13th August, a very alarming riot took place, during which the populace compelled the flour-dealers to sell at very reduced prices. Mr. Foster, British minister, arrived at Falmouth the 18th of August, in 23 days from Halifax. The 2d battalion of the 39th regiment, which had embarked for Lisbon, had its destination changed, and received orders to sail for America.

From Halifax. All American vessels with licences, which had been sent into Halifax have been released, and any have arrived at their destined ports. News of the capture of Gen. Hull's army, and of the destruction of the *Guerriere* reached there at the same time—and nothing could equal their chagrin and mortification at the latter event. It was like a thunder-bolt, and passengers in vessels arrived from there, state that the capture of Hull's army contributed not in the least to alleviate the regret occasioned by the capture and destruction of the *Guerriere*. In fact, it is considered there so detrimental to the reputation of old England, that the capture of a dozen such arms could not wash away the stain.

The Junon frigate was lying in Halifax the 24th ult. Her time of sailing has been delayed in consequence of a general mutiny among the crew, occasionally, as it was said, in consequence of the very hard treatment they received from the officers. The *Cutw*, after being got ready for sea, was suddenly dismantled.

A letter from Halifax, September 21, says, the officer of the *Guerriere* who have arrived, speak very handsomely of the treatment which they received, both on board the *Constitution* and subsequent to her arrival.

ALGERINE WAR.

A letter is received in Philadelphia from an American gentleman in Gibraltar, dated 5th August, which states, that colonel Lear, our consul at Algiers, with his family, and all the Americans that were there, had arrived in the bay of Gibraltar in the ship *Allegany*, and that they had been driven away by the Dey. It further states, that on the 13th July, a squadron of Algerine cruisers, consisting of 5 frigates, 3 corvettes, 2 brigs, 1 xebec, 1 schooner, and several gun-boats and row-gallies, sailed from Algiers to the eastward; and colonel Lear was fearful that they had orders to capture American vessels. Dispatches for government from colonel Lear have arrived at Portsmouth, in the ship *Mark* and *Abigail*.

Something new. A small privateer of Portland, (having captured the British brig *Diana*, mentioned on the deck of her prize.

The privateer *Shadow*, of Philadelphia, said to have been totally lost, was spoken at sea lately—all well.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

During the last week, about 2000 troops have arrived at the Niagara frontier. Similar movements are making towards Plattsburg, with a view, as is conjectured, of making a descent near Montreal, in concert with the force collecting at Niagara.

Gen. Wells left Fort Wayne on the 14th September, with 1000 mounted riflemen, and returned in a few days, after destroying five Pottawattamie and Miami towns, together with all their stores of corn, without seeing an Indian!

In consequence of the movement of considerable bodies of British troops on the St. Lawrence, General Bloomfield has ordered all the militia under his command to the same quarter; and we understand they are to rendezvous opposite the the St. Regis village, about 70 miles from Plattsburg.

Surrender of Fort Dearborn, (Chicago). Aaron Greely, esq late surveyor-general of the Michigan territory, with his family and effects, has arrived at Buffalo from Maiden in a flag of truce. Mr. G. has furnished the following particulars of the surrender of Fort Dearborn:

He states, that the Indians had besieged that place, that the Pottawattamies, with a Mr. Burnet, a trader from St. Joseph, had come down to the relief of the garrison, but that the besieging Indians compelled them to join them, threatening to make war upon them, and destroy them if they did not. The garrison surrendered—the terms of capitulation were, that the Indians should spare the lives of the garrison, who were to have as much of the arms, ammunition, provisions, &c. as they could carry away. Captain Wells, who had come from Fort Wayne to conduct the garrison to that place, at night ordered a quantity of powder and balls to be thrown into the Chicago river, to prevent its falling into the Indians' hands, which, when they discovered in the morning, so incensed them, that they fired upon the garrison as they marched out of the fort.

Captain Wells was killed. Captain Heels, the commandant of the garrison, and his lady, who were marching out of the fort, were both wounded; captain H. through both his thighs, and Mrs. H. by a rifle ball in her wrist, and another through the same arm. Their lives were saved by Mr. Burnet, the trader, who claimed them as friends, and offered to purchase their ransom. Captain Heels and his lady are now at St. Josephs, with Mr. Burnet. There were no British officers or troops at this engagement. Mr. Greely had the above information from a Pottawattamic chief, residing at St. Josephs, who was present at the surrender of Fort Dearborn.

Mr. G. also states, that an expedition against Fort Wayne, consisting of 200 regulars, 900 Indians, and some militia, set out on the 14th September, under captain Muir. But as gen. Harrison arrived at Fort Wayne on the 12th, no fears can be entertained of the safety of that important post.

The following extract of a letter from St. Louis, Missouri territory, received in Washington city, furnishes an account of the melancholy fate of the garrison of Chicago, (or Fort Dearborn) after the surrender, and exhibits a distressing picture of the dangers to which the inhabitants of our Western Frontiers are exposed, in consequence of the surrender of Detroit:

"Fort Chicago, on the Illinois, was evacuated on the 15th of last month, and the officers and soldiers put to death one mile from the place. Three women and nine children were among the slain; the credulous captain Wells, (Indian agent) had his breast cut open and his heart roasted and eaten by the chiefs present. Fort Madison (Bellevue) is now besieged by 400 Pottawattamies, Kickapoos, and Saukes. The factory is burnt down—by the garrison or Indians, we have not been able to learn which. The Indians have 200 warriors stationed on the Mississippi to protect the besieging party, and upwards of 500 more in small parties, harassing our frontier. The enemy expect a reinforcement of 1200 Sioux, Saes, and Foxes, with 150 Winnebagoes, to break into our settlements. These savages are rendered bold, and are more than themselves by success. We have but 17 regular troops at Belle Fontaine, and our settlements are so remote from one another, that you will no doubt hear of the most heroic examples of bravery from this quarter, as we are determined not to lose an inch of ground as long as life lasts or powder or lead can be had. This moment a spy has come in; he observed a number of wounded Indians carried from before Fort Bellevue."

Utica, Sept. 29.

From Cape Vincent. In the night of the 20th inst. captain Forsyth, with seventy of his rifle company and 34 militia-men, embarked on board a number of boats at Cape Vincent, and went over to a small village called Gananoque, in the town of Leeds, for the purpose of destroying the king's store-house at that place. They landed, unobserved, a short distance from the village, a little before sun-rise on the 21st, but were soon after discovered and fired upon by a party of the British, consisting of about 125 regulars and militia. The Americans returned the fire with so much effect that the British retreated in disorder and were pursued to the village, where they again rallied, but soon finding the contest too warm for them they fled over a bridge and made their escape, leaving behind ten of their number killed (besides several who were seen to fall into the stream as they were fired upon when passing the bridge) and 8 regulars and a number of militia, prisoners. Capt Forsyth had only one man killed, and one slightly wounded. The number wounded on the part of the enemy was not ascertained. The militia prisoners were discharged on parole. Captain Forsyth and his party, with 8 prisoners, about 60 stands of arms, two barrels of fixed ammunition, one barrel of powder, one barrel of flints, and some other articles of public property which they had taken from the enemy, then returned to Cape Vincent; not, however, till they had set fire to his majesty's store-house, which was consumed, together with a quantity of flour and pork.

Lexington, September 25.

Practical patriotism. Col. James Smith, distinguished for his services during the Indian war, and Revolution; who was one of the Black Boys of the Sliding Hill expedition, in the state of Pennsylvania; and who is now 80 years of age, has gone to join the army under gen. Harrison. He has gone to fight the battles of his country; not by paper declarations, or

oral wailings. No. The report of his gun is to give to the enemy the first warning of his injured feelings.

NAVAL & MARINE MEMORANDA.

ARRIVED,

At New-York, ship Hannibal, in 160 days from Can on, with a valuable cargo of tea, silks, cluna, nankeens, cassia, &c. September 24, fell in with the British letter of marque ship Patton, of 16 guns, captain M'Masters, from Barbadoes, for Plymouth, England, and being short of provisions, sent a boat on board, with the 3d officer and 4 seamen, and Mr. Reynolds, a passenger, the crew of which they detained, and sent their chief officer, with two seamen, in the Hannibal's boat, to bring captain Hunt, with his papers on board; which demand Hunt did not think proper to comply with; and perceiving they were preparing for action, captain H. bore away for his port of destination, leaving his boat's crew on board the Patton, and has safe arrived here with the English seamen that were sent on board his ship.

At Portland, privateer Rapid, captain Crabtree, from a cruise of 55 days—had taken 4 prizes, 3 of which had arrived—the other was given up.

At Salem, privateer brig Montgomery, from a cruise of 35 days, during which she captured 4 prizes, all of which have arrived.

At Boston, British barque William and Charlotte, from Quebec, prize to the Decatur, of Newb. report.

At Newport, American schooner Two-Brothers, of Stamford, Connecticut, from Bristol, England, with copper, tin, iron, &c. prize to the privateer United We Stand, of New-York; recaptured from the British frigate Aesta.

At Baltimore, privateer Dolphin, from a cruise—has made 6 prizes, 3 of which she burnt, two have arrived, and the other, a Providence privateer, captured off the Hole in the Wall, has not yet arrived—20 prisoners on board the Dolphin.

At Norfolk, British brig Mariana, from Jamaica for London, with coffee logwood, rum, and sugar, prize to the Governor McKean, Lucet, of Philadelphia. This ship, when fallen in with by the privateer, was boarded, and entirely deserted—rigged up jury-masts on her, and brought her safe into port.

At Savannah, British schooner Maorea, for Cuba, in ballast, prize to the Wasp, captain Taylor.

APPOINTMENTS

In the Navy of the United States, confirmed by the Senate, during the late session of Congress.

John H. Dent, senior master commandant, to be captain in the navy, vice Samuel Nicholson, deceased.

David Porter, John Cassin, and Samuel Evans, now masters commandants, to be captains in the navy of the U. States.

G. W. Reed, now a lieutenant, to be a master commandant in the navy.

James Wilson, John B. Nicholson, B. V. Hoffman, William Peters, George Budd, Thomas A. C. Jones, John M. Funk, Joseph S. Macpherson, John Porter, John T. Shubrick, now acting lieutenants, to be lieutenants in the navy.

To be Pursers in the Navy, under the new regulations respecting that office.

John B. Timberlake, Richard C. Archer, Isaac Garetson, Gwynn Harris, Samuel Hambleton, Clem. S. Hunt, J. R. Wilson, Samuel Robertson, Thomas I. Chew, John R. Green, Robert C. Ludlow, Nathaniel Lyde, Thomas Sniels, Robert Pottinger, John H. Carr, Samuel Maffit, Lewis Deblois, Alexander P. Darragh, Edwin W. Turner, Henry Denison, Ludlow Dashwood, George S. Wise, F. A. Thornton, Humphrey Magrath, Edward Fitzgerald, Robert Ormsby, Edwin T. Satterwhite, James M. Halsey.

TO BE NAVY AGENTS.

At Newcastle, James Riddle:
In Tennessee, William Helms.

CORPS OF MARINES.

Richard Smith, now senior first lieutenant in the corps of marines, to be a captain in the same, vice captain H. Caldwell, deceased.

Robert Moosely, James Brown, Charles S. Hanna, Alexander Sevier, Alfred Grayson, William Strong, John Urquhart, John Heath and Samuel Bacon, now second lieutenants in the corps of marines, to be first lieutenants.

TO BE SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

Benjamin Hyde, of the dist. of Col.; Lyman Kellog, of New-York; Samuel E. Watson of Kentucky; Lloyd Lucket, of Maryland; W. L. Brownlow, of Tennessee; Joshua Prime of New-York; Rd. L. Smith, of Virginia; Moses A. Roberts, of Georgia; Samuel Bacon, of Pennsylvania; William Hall, of North Carolina; Thomas Arrowsmith, of Pa; Newman S. Clark, of Vermont; Neil A. McKinnon, of New-York; F. B. Bellevue, of Orleans; T. Raimond Montegut, do; P. Bouche de Grand Pre, of do; William Cowan, of Virginia; John Contee, of Maryland; Francis Sterne, of Kentucky; Richard Steward, of Virginia; H. B. Breckenridge, of Kentucky; Thomas Harris, of Pennsylvania, and Robert Miller, of Virginia, to be surgeons.

TO BE SURGEON'S MATES.

Usher Parsons, of New-Hampshire; William C. Whittelsey, and Peter Christie, of New-York; John Young, jun. of Maryland; Samuel Jackson, of New-York; Herman M. Clark, of Connecticut; John D. Armstrong, of Kentucky; Donaldson Yeates, of Maryland.

Savannah, Sept. 2.

A letter from a gentleman at St. Mary's, to another in this city, dated the 18th inst. affords the following information:

"Capt. Williams of the U. S. army, marched a few days ago, with a party of twenty-two, including himself, from colonel Snayth's encampment, with two waggons, for St. John's river, for provisions. When he got within about twelve miles of St. John's an ambuscading party of Indians and ***** (about seventy in number) attacked him and killed one man and a sergeant of the U. S. army, and wounded six more, among whom was captain Williams, who received seven wounds—three through one hand, and the rest in his leg.

"With this little band, he made out to get to a swamp, about 200 yards distance, leaving his waggons. He there made a stand, and fought until the ammunition was expended on both sides. On the approach of the enemy, with tomahawks, capt. Williams charged bayonet: at sight of which the enemy retreated, having destroyed one waggon and carried the other off with their killed and wounded.

"Capt. Williams then proceeded on, and got to the block-house, on St. John's, with all the men, well and wounded, except one poor fellow, who could not travel, being badly wounded, and remained on the spot until the next day: when four Indians came to the place. On coming near him, he rose up, as well as he could, and called out for men to rush upon the Indians. On this they took alarm and precipitately fled. One of the Indians sprung from his horse, and left him. The wounded soldier crawled to the horse, mounted him, and came safe to the block-house.

The above information is corroborated, by several persons who have seen and conversed with some of the soldiers engaged in the skirmish.

DEFENCE OF FORT HARRISON.

Letter from Capt. Z. Taylor, commanding Fort Harrison, Indiana territory, to Gen. Harrison.

FORT HARRISON, Sept. 10.

Dear Sir—On Thursday evening the 3d inst. after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about 400 yards distant from the Fort. I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by the Indians, as I had that day been informed that the prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities. Prudence induced me to wait until 8 o'clock the next morning, when I sent out a corporal with a small party to find them, which he soon did; they had been each shot with two balls, and scalped and cut in the most shocking manner. I had them brought in and buried. In the evening of the 4th inst. old Joseph Lenar and between 30 and 40 Indians arrived from the Prophet's Town, with a white flag; among whom were about ten women, and the men were composed of chiefs of the different tribes that compose the Prophet's party. A Shawanoc man, that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak to me next morning, and try to get something to eat. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms and found them all in good order, and completed their cartridges to 16 rounds per man. As I had not been able to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers, for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day, from the unhealthiness of the company; I had not conceived my force adequate for the defence of this post, should it be vigorously attacked. I had just recovered from a very severe attack of the fever, and was not able to be up much through the night. After tattoo I cautioned the guard to be vigilant, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, as the sentinels could not see every part of the garrison, to walk around on the inside during the whole night, to prevent the Indians taking any advantage of us, provided they had any intention of attacking us. About 11 o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels; I sprang up, ran out, and ordered the men to their posts; when my orderly sergeant (who had charge of the upper block house) called out that the Indians had fired the lower block house (which contained the property of the contractor, which was deposited in the lower part, the upper post having been assigned to a corporal and ten privates, as an alarm post). The guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready and water brought from the well, and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was hardly perceivable at that time; but from debility or some other cause, the men were very slow in executing my orders—the word *fire* appeared to throw the whole of them into confusion; and by the time they had got the water and broken open the door, the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whisky (the stock having leaked several holes through the lower part of the building, after the salt that was stored there, through which they had introduced the fire without being discovered, as the night was very dark), and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof, and baffled all our efforts to extinguish it.

As that block-house adjoined the barracks that make part of the fortifications, most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting any of my orders executed—and, sir, what from the raging of the fire—the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians—the cries of nine women and children (a part soldiers' and a part citizens' wives, who had taken shelter in the Fort)—and the desponding of so many of the men, which was worse than all—I can assure you that my feelings were very unpleasant—and indeed there were not more than 10 or 15 men able to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent—and to add to our other misfortunes, two of the stoutest men in the Fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket and left us. But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me. I saw, by throwing off part of the roof that joined the block-house that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of 18 or 20 feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed; and that a temporary breast-work might be erected to prevent their even entering there—I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness and desperation. Those that were able (while the others kept up a constant fire from the other block-house and the two bastions) mounted the roofs of the houses with Dr. Clark at their head, who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind, the whole time the attack lasted, which was 7 hours, under a shower of bullets, and in a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary. This was done only with the loss of one man, and two wounded, and I am in hopes neither of them dangerous—the man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off the house as soon as directed, or he would not have been hurt—and although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them, the men used such exertions that they kept it under, and before day raised a temporary breast-work as high as a man's head, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and an innumerable quantity of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted, I had but one other man killed inside the Fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious—he got into one of the galleries of the bastions, and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down, in an instant he was shot dead. One of the men that jumped the pickets, returned an hour before day, and running up towards the gate, begged for God's sake for it to be opened. I suspected it to be a stratagem of the Indians to get in, as I did not recollect the voice—I directed the men in the bastion, where I happened to be, to shoot him let him be who he would, and one of them fired at him but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Dr. Clark directed him to lie down close to the pickets behind an empty barrel that happened to be there, and at day light I had him let in. His arm was broken in a most shocking manner, which he says was done by the Indians—which I suppose was the cause of his returning—I think it probable that he will not recover. The other, they caught about 120 yards from the garrison, and cut him all

to pieces. After keeping up a constant fire until about six o'clock the next morning, which we returned with some effect; after day-light, they removed out of the reach of our guns. A party of them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could not catch them very readily, shot the whole of them in our sight, as well as a number of their hogs. They drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to sixty-five head, as well as the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night, (which was made by the burning of the block house) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard house. We lost the whole of our provisions, but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I am in hopes will not be long. I believe the whole of the Miamies or Weas were among the Prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language, which resembled Stone Eater's voice, and I believe Negro Legs was there likewise. The Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot.

(Signed)

Z. TAYLOR.

His excellency governor Harrison.

In addition to the above account of the gallant defence of Fort Harrison, from an attack of a party of Indians perhaps ten times their number, we have pleasure in stating, that there is every reason to believe that that post was relieved before the Indians could re-assemble to attack it. On Thursday evening, the 10th ult. Col. William Russel arrived at Vincennes from the Illinois, with about 600 mounted Rangers, and five hundred Infantry, with which he marched on the 12th to succour Fort Harrison. On the 13th he encamped within 35 miles of the Fort, which he was expected to reach on the 16th.


Fort Wayne, the situation of which was considered critical, is also relieved by the army under the command of General Harrison, which reached that place on the 12th ult. A considerable body of Indians had besieged it closely for several days, but retreated precipitately on the advance of the army, having previously destroyed by fire several buildings outside the Fort. The Indian towns of Elk Hart, the forks of the Wabash, and the late Turtle's town were destroyed by detachments of the army that were sent out on that service. The Indians had fled from these towns with every mark of precipitancy. The whole army displayed much spirit in its operations, and the greatest order prevailed. One of the detachments sent out, under the command of Col. Wells, marched sixty miles and back again, in four days, and a half, after accomplishing the object of the expedition by destroying the corn, &c. at one of the Indian towns. The army consists of 5000 men.

At Urbana, in Ohio, there are about 1400 men under arms.

About 1000 mounted riflemen, under the command of Gen. Hopkins, from Kentucky, rendezvoused at Red Banks, about the 20th ult.

About 690 men under the command of Gen. Winlock, were on their march to Vincennes on the 16th.

It is supposed, when these forces are concentrated, they will move towards Detroit, retrieve the disaster at that place and retaliate on the invaders—a service in which all the troops display the greatest anxiety to be engaged.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
Brock University - University of Toronto Libraries

<http://archive.org/details/warv1n16wood>

