

# THE WAR.

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

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NEW-YORK.....TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1813.

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## DESPERATE ACTION.

*Charleston, August 15.*

Yesterday arrived at this port the fine new privateer schooner Decatur, capt. Dominique Diron, from a cruise of 85 days; bringing in with her as prizes his B. M. schooner Dominico, licut. G. W. Barrette, late commander, captured on the 6th instant, and the British ship London Trader, capt. Sinclair, from Surinam bound to London, captured on the following day. The particulars of the action with the Dominico, will be found in the following extract from the Decatur's log-book.

### EXTRACT.

*Relation of the battle between the American Privateer Decatur, armed with 6 12lb. carronades, and 1 18 pounder on a pivot, with 103 men, commanded by Monsieur Dominique Diron; and H. B. M. schr. Dominico, of 12 12lb. carronades, 2 long sixes, one brass 4lb and 1 32lb. carronade on a pivot, with 83 men, commanded by licut. George Wilmot Barrette—carried by boarding.*

On the 4th of August, 1813, at half past 10 in the morning, the man at the mast head discovered 2 sail to the southward—at 11 these vessels were ascertained to be a ship and a schooner—at half past 12 found ourselves abreast of the schooner, which hoisted English colors, at 1 o'clock the Decatur wore round; half an hour after the schooner fired a shot, without effect; the captain then gave orders to prepare every thing for action, to load all the cannon and musketry, to have the grapples, swords, &c. ready, and having previously got up the necessary ammunition, water, &c from below, ordered the hatches to be fastened down. At 2 o'clock, the Decatur having wore ship in order to take the schooner aboard, she fired another shot which passed over us; and a quarter past 2 we fired our large gun and hoisted American colors at the peak; we fired our piece a second and a third time, which she answered by firing two guns from her battery; our distance was now about half gun shot; it was now half past 2 o'clock, and the schooner evinced a desire to bear away; observing this, the Decatur hauled upon the larboard tack, in order to present her bow to the enemy; 10 minutes after the enemy fired a whole broadside, which caused no damage to the Decatur, except some trifling injury to her rigging. After having answered her by a shot from our 18 pounder, the captain of the Decatur ordered every one to his post, in order to carry her by boarding, when the necessary preparations were made for the purpose; it was now about three quarters past 2, the distance about pistol shot—the crew of the Decatur having cheered preparatory to boarding, our fire of musketry commenced and was very well kept up; the enemy bearing away in order to avoid the boarding, seized the opportunity to fire a broadside into us, which killed 2 of our men, and otherwise materially injured our rigging and sails. The Decatur continuing to follow up the manœuvres of the enemy, endeavored again to board her, which she once more avoided and fired another broadside. The capt. of the Decatur having ordered the drum to beat the charge, the crew cried out to board. At that moment endeavored again to board her, which the enemy could no longer resist, and was effected by passing into her stern over our bowsprit, our jib-boom running into her mainsail. It was now half past 3—the fire from the artillery and musketry was terrible, and well supported on both sides. The enemy not being able to disengage himself, dropped alongside; and it was in this position that capt. Diron ordered his whole crew to board, armed with pistols, sabres, &c. which order was executed with the promptness of lightning.—Mr. Vincent Smith, 1st prize-master, and quarter-master Thomas Washburne, were the two first on board the enemy; in doing which the prize-master received 3 wounds; the crew of the enemy fought with as much courage and bravery as that of the Decatur did with valor and integrity. Fire-arms now became useless, and the crews were fighting hand to hand with cutlasses, and throwing cold shot; when, the capt. of the enemy and the

principal officers being killed, the deck covered with dead and wounded, the English colors were hauled down by the conquerors. In consequence of the orders given by the capt. of the Decatur, the vessels were then separated, the rigging and sails being in the worst state possible.

During the combat, which lasted an hour, the king's packet ship Princess Charlotte remained a silent spectator of the scene, and as soon as the vessels were disengaged from each other, she tacked about and stood to the southward. She had sailed from St. Thomas, bound to England, under convoy, to a certain latitude, of the Dominico.

*Killed and Wounded on board the Decatur.*

Killed, 3. Wounded, 16—one of whom (the carpenter) since dead.

*On board the Dominico.*

Killed, 13. Wounded, 47—5 of whom are since dead of their wounds. Total killed and wounded, 60. Among the killed are G. W. Barrette, commander; Mr. J. Sacker, master; Mr. D. Brown, purser; Mr. Archer and Mr. Parrey, midshipmen. Wounded, Mr. John Nichols, midshipman. The surgeon and one midshipman were the only officers on board who were not killed or wounded. The licut. was left on shore, sick.

From the above statement it would appear, that this engagement has been the most bloody, and the loss of the killed and wounded on the part of the enemy, in proportion to the number engaged, perhaps the greatest, of any action to be found in the records of naval warfare. The surviving officers of the Dominico attribute the loss of their vessel to the superior skill of the Decatur's crew in the use of musketry, and the masterly manœuvring of that vessel, by which their carriage guns were rendered nearly useless. Capt. Barrette was a young man, of not more than 25 years of age; he had been wounded early in the action by 2 musket balls in the left arm, but he fought till the last moment, refusing to surrender his vessel, although he was urged by the few survivors of his crew to do so; declaring his determination not to survive her loss. One of the lieuts. of the Decatur received a severe sabre wound in the hand from capt. B. a few moments before he fell. Capt. Diron is a Frenchman, and many of the officers and crew of his vessel are his countrymen; they have done themselves immortal honor by the humanity and attention displayed towards their prisoners after victory, which is spoken of in high terms of approbation, by the surviving officers of the enemy's vessel.

The crew of the Dominico, with the exception of 8 or 10 boys, were fine looking young men; but to see them in the mangled state in which they arrived, was enough to freeze the blood, of one not accustomed to such sights, with horror. Among her crew is a small boy, not eleven years old, who was twice wounded, while contending for victory upon the deck.

The day after capturing the sch. the Decatur fell in with and captured, without any action, the British ship London Trader, from Surinam bound to London, with a cargo consisting of 269 hhd. of sugar, 140 tierces of molasses, 55 hhd. rum, 700 bags coffee, about 50 or 60 bales cotton, and some other articles. She anchored in 5 fathom hole yesterday.

There never was a greater instance of good fortune than that experienced by these vessels, in the moment of their arrival on the coast—had they got here one day sooner, they would have stood a great chance to have fallen into the hands of the enemy's brigs which had been cruising for some time off here, and which had passed the bar and stood to the southward, with the wind at N. E. on Thursday morning.

*From the National Intelligencer.*

We cannot help calling the attention of our readers to the noble conduct of Croghan and his brave associates at Sandusky, after repulsing the enemy as detailed below. The enemy had sought their lives, had openly menaced their extermination, and had declared that he would give no quarters. He was repulsed—he was vanquished by a handful of men. He left the ditch full of his dead and wounded, and retreated with

precipitation, leaving his Indian allies scattered at a distance round the fort, to revenge the loss of their comrades by chance-shots from the deadly rifle. Regardless of the danger from this fire, our brave soldiers employed themselves, after having been on duty for 30 successive hours, in letting down water in buckets to the wounded of the enemy in the ditch, whom the darkness of the night and the uncertainty of the retreat of the enemy prevented them from relieving in any other way. What an interesting subject for the painter and the poet! What a beautiful picture of generosity and humanity does not this exhibit! Such a scene in other nations would of itself immortalize the actors in it. But here, it is only regarded as a trait marking the conduct of American citizen soldiery, which, whenever its character has been fairly developed, has shone forth with peculiar lustre.

## THE ATTACK ON SANDUSKY.

*Further interesting particulars.*

We are sorry to perceive, that all the accounts hitherto received concur in representing the conduct of the British on this occasion, as affording ample proof of the characteristic barbarity and the sanguinary dispositions of that nation, which has been called by men professing to be Americans, the "bulwark of religion," and the "shield of oppressed humanity." From sources entitled to credit, we learn, that when colonel Elliott demanded the surrender of the fort, he stated that, unless his demand was promptly acceded to, a general massacre would ensue. And when col. Short, who commanded the British regulars destined to storm the fort, had formed his troops in a line parallel with the ditch, he ordered them, in the hearing of our men, to leap the ditch, cut down the pickets, and give the Americans no quarter. This barbarous order, which none but a savage could give, was not, however, permitted to go unpunished; for the words were hardly out of the mouth of the British commander, when the retributive justice of Providence arrested him; and the wretch was obliged to sue for that mercy which he had determined not to extend to others. It may be observed here, in honor of the character of the American soldiers, that although our little band were well aware of the fate which the enemy had prepared for them: yet, they were no sooner subdued, than the Americans forgot their crimes in their sufferings; and the wounded in the ditch, whose groans and constant calls for water were heard by our men in the fort, were supplied with that necessary article, on the night succeeding the discomfiture of the enemy, by the generosity of the Americans, who, with considerable hazard, ventured to risk their lives in order to alleviate the sufferings of the very men who had plotted their entire destruction.

## THE CONTRAST.

After the battle at the river Raisin and before gen. Harrison knew of the massacre of the Americans, he sent "a flag of truce with surgical aid" to our wounded—and what was their reception? The officer who carried the flag of truce was killed, Dr. McKeelhan was severely wounded, cruelly insulted, made prisoner and paraded through Canada as a trophy of British valor. All this occurred under the command of Proctor, who in his letter to gen. Harrison after his unsuccessful attack on Sandusky, prates of "every consideration being shewn by the brave soldier for a wounded enemy." Thus it is that England vaunts of her humanity, magnanimity and religion, yet inflicts the most unpardonable injuries and the most wanton cruelties.

*St. Louis, (M F) July 31.*

INDIAN HOSTILITIES

## FORT MADISON AGAIN ATTACKED.

On the 16th instant, the enemy carried a blockhouse at this place, lately erected by the commanding officer to command a ravine, of which they take advantage in all their attacks upon this place; 4 men were killed and butchered in this blockhouse; they kept up a fire upon the garrison for about 2 hours. This is the 9th or 10th encounter that has taken place on our frontier between the 4th and 18th of this month.