

THE RELIEF OF MICHELMACKINAC, 1814.

BY A. N. BULLOCK.

Shortly after war was declared by the United States of America against Great Britain in 1812, a small party of English soldiers, consisting of about 30 men of the 1st Royal Canadian Battalion, with a few hundred Canadian voyageurs and Indians, under the command of Captain Roberts, proceeded to attack the American post on the Island of Michilimackinac. Having surprised the garrisons, the Americans surrendered, and the fort was immediately taken possession of by Captain Roberts and a little band of soldiers. The loss of this post was considered by the Americans as a most unfortunate event, as it virtually gave the British the control of that immense territory inhabited by the Western Indians, being along what was then the west boundary of the United States, from Sankaty, on Lake Erie, to the Mississippi river, termed the "Michigan, Illinois and Indiana countries," which has since been divided into five different States, viz., Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. The importance of Michilimackinac, as a military post, was not underrated. Its natural features, its elevated position—being high inaccessible rock on every side except the west—pointed it out as a most important military possession—a fort, built by nature for herself, "the key of the Western country," the value of which both the contending powers were fully cognizant.

After Michilimackinac was taken by the British, only a small detachment of soldiers were left to guard it. The isolated position of this garrison, as the war continued, was particularly trying, there being no settled inhabitants on the Island, except a few Canadians engaged in the fur trade, and with the exception of a visit from these men, or one of the various bands of Indians who frequented the Island, there seldom occurred anything to cheer, or enliven the monotonous and lonely hours which were passed by this garrison. But a time was at hand when their position was to be changed into one of intense excitement and alarm. Towards the latter end of 1813, an Indian runner arrived at the fort with intelligence that the Americans were making preparations to retake Michilimackinac, and a large force would be sent for that purpose as soon as practicable. On receiving this information, an express was immediately despatched to "Headquarters," by the officer commanding at Michilimackinac, with an urgent appeal for relief to be sent to them; as they were not in a position either to stand a siege, or to successfully resist—without some reinforcement—the attack of the large force which, it was stated, would be sent against them. In the meantime, every effort was made by the garrison to strengthen the fort in case of an attack before assistance arrived. When this was done, that gallant little band of soldiers waited within that isolated post—hundreds of miles from where any immediate relief could reach them—the arrival of the enemy.

Before, however, the express from Michilimackinac could reach Kingston, the intentions of the Americans respecting that post were already known there; and so alarmed were the authorities of the safety of that place—the only stronghold which they had, at the time, on the Western Lakes—that an expedition was ordered to be fitted out with all possible speed, and despatched by the shortest route to its relief.

At Kingston, where the expedition for the relief of Michilimackinac was ordered to be fitted out, a great deal of speculation was indulged in, as to whom would be chosen to take part in this arduous undertaking. The nature of the service; the difficulties the troops would have to encounter, in the wild and desolate country through which they had to pass; (a new route of nearly six hundred miles having been chosen,) were fully discussed, and soon became a subject of general interest amongst the troops in the town. Nothing definite, however, could be ascertained in regard to the exact time the expedition was to leave Kingston. Active preparations were pushed on until the beginning of February, 1814, when, everything being then in readiness, a small party of workmen, including boat-builders, were sent on in advance.

Almost immediately after their departure the relieving party, consisting of ten officers and two hundred picked men, exclusive of twenty artillery men, with a Lieutenant and 20 men of the Royal Navy, left Kingston under the command of Lieut. Colonel Robert McDouall, of the Glengarry Light Infantry (formerly of the 8th or King's Regiment), who had been especially selected by Sir George Prevost for this important service. Beloved by his soldiers, a more gallant officer, a braver man, could not have been chosen to fill the duties of this arduous command.

The troops commenced their march in severe wintry weather, and, as they advanced they had to open the roads through the woods for the conveyance of supplies; and having proceeded upwards of two hundred and fifty miles into a wilderness, they halted in a magnificent forest of pine on the bank of the Nottawasaga river. Here they erected a temporary covering of huts; and with timber cut down and prepared on the spot, the men aided in the construction of twenty-nine large boats; four of which, were made to carry each a cannon. Having previously loaded the flotilla with stores and provisions, they embarked on the 22nd of April to descend the Nottawasaga river—the ice in the upper part of which being still firm, a channel had to be opened through it, to the extent of about 30 miles, and on the night of the 24th they camped on a most dismal spot upon the north-eastern shore of Lake Huron; and on the following morning (the 25th) commenced their perilous passage across that lake, covered as it was as far as the eye could reach by fields of floating ice. Day after day and night after night the men toiled incessantly in opening a passage through the ice, and, notwithstanding the danger to which they themselves were exposed by the constant, and at times, terrific storms, accompanied by violent gales, which so agitated the immense body of floating ice that surrounded them everywhere—and which threatened ever moment to crush the boats to pieces—they nevertheless succeeded in working their way through it, with the loss of only one boat. For nineteen days it was nearly one continued struggle with the elements, during which time the dangers, hardships and privations to which the men were exposed, were sufficient to discourage the boldest amongst them, and at times threatened the total destruction of the flotilla.

The stormy and unfavorable weather,

which had almost incessantly from the moment they commenced their march, had a most depressing effect on the minds of the men. The boats were pushed on with all possible speed, it being apprehended that the Americans might, from their more southern position, arrive at Michilimackinac before them. It may therefore be imagined what the feelings of the soldiers were, when on arriving within sight of Michilimackinac on the morning of the 18th May, they beheld the flag of their beloved country still proudly flying over the fort which was built on the lofty heights of that lone and highly prized Island, for the preservation of which they had undergone so much suffering and hardship. To the men tired and worn out by the excessive toil and privations which they had endured working for their lives in the floating ice, through which they had effected a passage, a distance of nearly three hundred miles, the sight of Michilimackinac on this occasion was hailed with every expression of delight and thankfulness. Within its sheltering walls they expected to soon find a resting place to repose their weary limbs.

But to return to the little garrison at Michilimackinac. An anxious and trying time was passed by the soldiers during the winter of 1813-14. Everything had been done during that period to make their position as strong as possible. Two months had slowly passed since word had reached them that relief would be sent. But as yet there was no sign of it. Matters were in this state on the approach of spring. The ice in the lake had already commenced to break up, and float away. To make matters worse, information had just reached them that the Americans would leave early in April, so that they might now arrive at any moment. What an anxious and trying time was now passed. Day after day the soldiers were kept constantly on the lookout for the expected relief, but evening after evening closed again with the same disheartening intelligence. "No sign of it." All hope was now abandoned and fully prepared for the worst, that gallant little band determined to defend the fort to the last, and rather than let it fall again into the hands of the Americans,—on some of the guns of which were inscribed, "Taken at Saratoga," and on others, "taken from Lord Cornwallis," etc.—they intended to spike the guns, and blow up the fort, and endeavour to make their escape to St. Joseph.

This was the exact position of affairs at Michilimackinac, when, on the evening of the 17th of May, the lookout party reported that the long expected relief was in sight. The news spread like wild fire throughout the fort, and very soon everyone turned out to gaze at the approaching boats; which could hardly be seen, and looked like so many dark objects in the distance far out on the Lake. Anxiously indeed was their advance watched by those in the fort until in the darkness of the night they were lost sight of. The 18th of May, 1814, was a red letter day in the history of Michilimackinac. At an early hour every one was up and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the reinforcement. A guard of honor, small though it was, marched down to the shore. From the fort the near approach of the boats was watched with indescribable interest, and when Lieut. Colonel McDouall landed on the Island, the cannon on the heights pealed forth a salute in honor of his safe arrival, and the gallant men who accompanied him, the echo of each gun breaking in upon the awful stillness of the surrounding neighbourhood with startling effect.

MONTREAL, Que.

The Cowardice of Animals.

Not long since the writer saw a dealer in live animals open a box containing an anaconda, take the reptile by the throat, and calmly examine its mouth, opened though it was in rage, to look for cancerous tumors. Then from adjoining shelves he took python after python, each about ten feet long, and examined them in like manner. Only last week at the place of another dealer a big, powerful Syrian bear, a type known for its ferocity, was subdued without the firing of a shot. The bear broke through iron bars half an inch thick, and, standing up with his back against a cage of monkeys, thrust his terrible paw threateningly toward three keepers gathered about him. He didn't have a chance to use them, however, for he was belabored with clubs until glad to get back again into his cage.

On a pedestal near the gate of the Cincinnati zoological gardens there recently stood the stuffed figure of a donkey which, when alive, stood the attack of a lion and beat him off. The lion, it seems, had broken out of his cage and escaped to a wood near by. On a grassy hillock adjoining a donkey lay stretched in placid slumber—a slumber that was rudely disturbed by the lion, who, in a few bounds was upon him. When the donkey felt the great mass of flesh descend upon him as if from the clouds, he was stunned and indignant, but not frightened, perhaps because he had never read any of the wonderful stories about the lion. He quickly recovered from the blow, and, rising, shot out both hind feet at the same time and caught the lion squarely in the forehead. Badly hurt, the lion skulked off and later the donkey died of the wound he received at the onset.

Lonely.

In these days of railroads and telegraphs it seems impossible that any civilized people can be cut off from newspapers and post-offices. But the little island of Kilda, north of Scotland, has a regular communication with the mainland only once a year. The agent of the owner visits the island once a year to collect rents, and carries with him a package of letters and newspapers.

There are now only six families on the island, composed of seventy-three persons, and the number is gradually diminishing. Their fare is made up of barley bread, eggs, and sea-birds. Fish abound in the waters, but the islanders do not like them as food, and catch them only for sale.

They weave rough clothing and blankets, and sell them to pay rent. In the summer they cultivate gardens, collect birds and eggs for winter stores, and fish for trade. But these poor people, while fighting a hard battle for life, are contented with their lot. Crime and intemperance are unknown amongst them, and courts are never held. All the adults are members of the Church of Scotland, and know a large part of the Bible by heart. A minister resides among them, and holds regular services on Sunday, and during the week. This little island is a strange contrast to the busy life of the nineteenth century.

This article contains much of the same kind of offering eggs at the Easter festivals is shrouded in mystery. But to all Christians these customs are peculiarly suggestive, while the Romans, whose year began at this season, gave them as New Year's gifts; the Jews placed eggs on their Passover table, and the Druids frequently used them in their mysterious ceremonies.

God's Measure.

BY L. A. MORRISON.

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was good."—Gen 1, 31.

"Very good" is the measure at last: With Creation's labor ended, The night and days of yearning past, When the "finest work" sublime and vast Shines out in the beauty and smile of God, The shadows all are blended With the glorious light of a perfect morn, When from God's conception a World was born.

A beautiful bit of historic romance is given us by a French writer in connection with what is known as the *marriage aux cygnes*, between the lovely and fascinating Marguerite, of Austria, and Philbert the Handsome, Duke of Savoy. In the early springtime, when the fields were changing their white, wintry dress for the gorgeous habiliments of green, and when the trees of the forests were arraying themselves in their leafy covering, the royal lady had made a pilgrimage into the charming district of Bresse, lying on the western slope of the Alps. Here she set up her small but hospitable court at the castle of Brou. Surrounding the castle was a celebrated hunting ground in which, shortly afterwards, the handsome Philbert went shooting. Hearing that the fair princess was at the castle, he repaired thither to pay her homage.

A Love Letter.

BY MERVIN KEEL.

Your face So fair	Your tongue So sweet	Your wit So sharp
First bent Mine eye.	Then hid Mine ear.	Then hid Mine heart.
Mine eye To like	Mine ear To learn	Mine heart To love
Your face Doth lead.	Your tongue Doth teach.	Your wit Doth move.
Your face With beams	Your tongue With sound	Your wit With art
Doth blind Mine eye.	Doth fill Mine ear.	Doth rule Mine heart.
Mine eye With life	Mine ear With hope	Mine heart With skill
Your face Doth feel.	Your tongue Doth feel.	Your wit Doth fill.
O, face, Wrong not Mine eye.	O, tongue, With check Mine ear.	O, wit, With smart Mine heart.
This eye Shall joy Your face To serve.	This ear Shall bend Your tongue To trust.	This heart Shall swear Your wit To fear.

I Love to Muse.

BY ARCHIE MACK.

I love to muse in twilight hours To roam of times gone by, To freely roam through memory's bowers, And absent forms supply. To conjure up those faces bright, That once were ever near, Though now they've vanished from my sight, They are the none less dear.

EVIL EFFECTS OF A MISTAKEN PHILOSOPHY.

BY ISIAH RYDER, M. D.

The case is reported from Liverpool of a Mrs. Berry poisoning her mother and daughter, who were insured respectively for £200, and £10, in order to get the insurance. She was executed and buried in the "Murderers' graveyard, close beside the remains of Catherine Flannigan and Margaret Higgins, who were executed at the same place three years ago for poisoning Higgins's husband.

A Lesson in Lion Taming.

Those of our readers who expect to make lion taming a profession will read this item with interest and will doubtless profit by the hint which it gives:

A German tamer of wild beasts always entered the cage dressed in a gaudy Hungarian costume, with large top boots. The moment he appeared the lions fled back with terror and cowered down in a corner, whence they were with difficulty dislodged. It was evident that the very sight of him inspired them with terror. How was it done? His plan has at least the merit of being original. He obtained a lay figure which he dressed up in the attractive costume he was in the habit of wearing. The very features were closely imitated, so were the proportions and build of the man. The disguise was so perfect that even human beings might have mistaken the make-up for the original. The figure was introduced into the cage and made to stand upright at first, but after a while it was knocked over, when with a bound the lions rushed with open jaws on their prey. Suddenly they began to howl for pain and withdrew to a corner with bleeding mouths and tongues. The manikin was covered all over with sharp iron spikes, concealed under the brilliant uniform! Twice the tamer tried the experiment; the lions did not move the second time. He then commenced his course of training, attired in a costume similar to that of the wooden figure, though he had never entered a cage before.

Fogg—"I've been writing something here, but I don't know whether to publish it or not. What do you think of it?" Brown (after looking over a few pages)—"To be frank with you, I don't believe anybody but a fool would buy such a book; certainly not a boy, but a fool would ever read it." Fogg—"Thank you; I'll publish it. The man who writes only for his own name is a fool; he who writes for fools is a wise man. He has a hundred readers to the other's one."

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All the boot and shoe manufacturers of St. Roch, Quebec, are said to have so many orders on hand that they are working night and day to fill them.

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A woman named Marie Soum is under arrest at Toulouse for drugging her cousin, Bertrande Salage, and then cutting the form of the cross on several parts of her body for the purpose of exorcising an evil spirit, the woman Soum believing that she was under her cousin's malign influence.

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Supt. Fisher, of the French Cable Company, has arrived at Halifax from New York and is arranging for the immediate construction of land lines connecting their cable at Sydney with Montreal, so as to give Canada a cable service independent of the United States. This land line will tap all leading cities and towns between Sydney and Montreal, where it will give French cable connection with Canada Pacific telegraphic systems, also an additional connection with New York by way of the Baltimore and Ohio lines. Mr. Fisher says competition of the French Cable Company will make it exceedingly lively for the "cable pool."

A Lucky Dog.
A great deal has been done during the last few years to ameliorate the condition of aristocratic dogs. They now trot about under warm blankets at the end of bright chains, instead of being left to their own devices as in degenerate days of old. We have never heard, however, of a dog as lucky as the French cur described in this paragraph:

Baron de Jouarre, who died in Paris a few days ago, bequeathed the whole of his fortune, amounting to 150,000 francs, to "Tiger," his faithful Danish mastiff. According to the provisions of the will a family residence is to be purchased in one of the suburbs, in which the dog is to take up his quarters. A male attendant and a charwoman are appointed to look after the dog and keep the house in order, and will be paid for their services an annual salary of 2,000 francs each, together with free lodgings. Every little contingency has been provided for. A small sum has been set apart for the apothecary and the veterinary surgeon; every year Tiger is to be furnished with a new rug, and in spring and summer with fresh collars of elegant design. At the demise of the noble animal 1,000 francs are to be spent on a gravestone and the house, and the capital to become the property of the Society for the Protection of Animals.

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HOME AND GENERAL NEWS.

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Advertisement for various goods and services, including steamships, clothing, and other items. Mentions "Steamships" and "S. W. & C. O." among others.