

to injure us. We left to the tender mercy of the enemy the miserable Canadians who had joined us, and the protection we afforded them was but a passport to vengeance. This fatal and unaccountable step dispirited the troops, and destroyed the little confidence which a series of timidity irresolute and indecisive measures had left in the commanding officer.

About the tenth of August, the enemy had a reinforcement of about 400 men. On the 12th, the commanding officers of three of the regiments (the fourth was absent) were informed through a medium which admitted of no doubt, that the general had stated, that a capitulation would be necessary. They on the same day addressed to Gov. Meigs of Ohio a letter of which the following is an extract:

"Believe all the bearer will tell you. Believe it, however it may astonish you, as much as if told you by one of us. Even a c— is talked of by the The bearer will fill the vacancy."

The doubtful fate of this letter rendered it necessary to use circumspection in its details, and therefore these blanks were left. The word "capitulation" will fill the first, and commanding general the other. As no enemy was near us, and as the superiority of our force was manifest, we could see no necessity for capitulating, nor any propriety in aluding to it.—We therefore determined in the last resort to incur the responsibility of divesting the general of his command. This plan was eventually prevented by two of the commanding officers of regiments being ordered upon detachments.

On the 13th, the British took a position opposite to Detroit, & began to throw up works. During they pursued their object without interruption and established a battery for two 18-pounders and an 8-inch howitzer.—About sunset on the evening of the 24th a detachment of 350 men from the regiments commanded by Colonel M<sup>r</sup>. Arthur and myself, was ordered to march to the river Raisin, to escort the provisions, which had some time remained there protected by a party under the command of Captain Brush.

On Saturday the 15th about one o'clock, a flag of truce arrived from Sandwich bearing a summons from general Brock, for the surrender of the town and fort of Detroit, stating he could no longer restrain the fury of the savages. To this an immediate and spirited refusal was returned. About four o'clock, their batteries began to play upon the town. The fire was returned and continued without interruption and with little effect till dark. Their shells were thrown till eleven o'clock.

At day light, the firing on both sides recommenced; about the same time the enemy began to land troops, at the Springwells, three miles below Detroit, protected by two of their armed vessels.—Between six and seven o'clock, they had effected their landing and immediately took up their line of march. They moved in a close column of platoons twelve in front upon the bank of the river.

The fourth regiment was stationed in the fort; the Ohio volunteers and a part of the Michigan militia, behind some pickets, in a situation in which the whole flank

of the enemy would have been exposed.—The residue of the Michigan militia were in the upper part of the town to resist the incursions of the savages. Two 24 pounders loaded with grape shot were posted upon a commanding eminence, ready to sweep the advancing column. In this situation the superiority of our position was apparent, and our troops in the eager expectation of victory, awaited the approach of the enemy. Not a sigh of discontent broke upon the ear; not a look of cowardice met the eye. Every man expected a proud day for his country, and each was anxious that his individual exertion should contribute to the general result.

When the head of the column arrived within about five hundred yards of our line, orders were received from Gen. Hull for the whole to retreat to the Fort, and for the twenty four pounders not to open upon the enemy. One universal burst of indignation was apparent upon the receipt of this order. Those whose conviction was the deliberate result or dispassionate examination of passing events saw the folly and impropriety of crowding 1100 men into a little work which 300 could fully man; and into which the shot and shells of the enemy were falling. The fort was in this manner filled; the men were directed to stock their arms, and scarcely was an opportunity afforded of moving. Shortly after a white flag was hung out upon the walls. A British officer rode up to enquire the cause. A communication passed between the commanding generals, which ended in the capitulation submitted to you. In entering into this capitulation, the general took council from his own feelings. Not one anticipated a surrender, till he saw the white flag displayed. Even the woman were indignant at so shameful a degradation of the American character, and all felt as they should have felt, but he who held in his hands the reins of authority.

Our morning report had that morning made our effective men present fit for duty 1060, without including 300 Michigan militia on duty. About dark on Saturday evening the detachment sent to escort the provisions received orders from Gen. Hull to return with as much expedition as possible. About ten o'clock the next day they arrived within sight of Detroit. Had a firing been heard or any resistance visible, they would have immediately advanced and attacked the rear of the enemy.—The situation, in which this detachment was placed, although the result of accident, was the best for annoying the enemy and cutting off his retreat that could have been selected. With his raw troops enclosed between two fires and no hopes of success, it is hazarding little to say, that very few would have escaped.

I have been informed by Col. Findly, who saw the return of their quarter-master-general the day after the surrender, that their whole force of every description white, red and black, was 1030. They had 29 platoons, 12 in a platoon, of men dressed in uniform. Many of these were evidently Canadian militia. The rest of their militia increased their white force to about 700 men.—The number of their indians could not be ascertained

with any degree of precision; not many were visible.—And in the event of an attack upon the town and fort, it was a species of force which could have afforded no material advantage to the enemy.

In endeavouring to appreciate the motives and to investigate the causes, which led to an event so unexpected and dishonorable, it is impossible to find any solution in the relative strength of the contending parties, or in the measures of resistance in our power. That we were far superior to the enemy; that upon any ordinary principles of calculation we would have defeated them, the wounded and indignant feelings of every man there will testify.

A few days before the surrender, I was informed by General Hull, we had 400 rounds of 24 pound shot fixed, and about 100,000 cartridges made. We surrendered with the fort 40 barrels of powder and 2500 stand of arms.

The state of our provisions has been not generally understood.

On the day of the surrender we had fifteen days provisions of every kind on hand. Of meat there was plenty in the country, and arrangements had been made for purchasing and grinding flour. It was calculated we could readily procure 3 months' provisions, independent of 150 barrels flour, 1300 head of cattle which had been forwarded from the state of Ohio, and which remained at the river Raisin under Captain Brush within reach of the army.

But had we been totally destitute of provisions our duty and our interest undoubtedly was to fight. The enemy invited us to meet him in the field.

By accepting him, the whole country would be open to us, and the object of our expedition gloriously and successfully obtained. If we had been defeated we had nothing to do but to retreat to the fort, and make the best defence which circumstances and our situation rendered practicable. But basely to surrender without firing a gun—tamely to submit without raising a bayonet—disgracefully to pass in review before an enemy as inferior in the quality as in the number of his forces, were circumstances, which excited feelings of indignation more easily felt than described. To see the whole of our men flushed with the hope of victory eagerly awaiting the approaching contest, to see them afterwards dispirited, hopeless and desponding, at least 500 shedding tears because they were not allowed to meet their country's foe, and to fight their country's battles, excited sensations, which no American has ever before had cause to feel, and which I trust in God, will never again be felt, while one man remains to defend the standard of the Union.

I am expressly authorized to state, that Col. M<sup>r</sup> Arthur and Col. Findly and Lieut. Col. Miller viewed this transaction in the light which I do. They know and feel, that no circumstance in our situation, none in that of the enemy, can excuse a capitulation so dishonorable and unjustifiable. This too is the universal sentiment among the troops and I shall be surprised to learn, that there is one man, who think it was necessary to sheath his sword, or to lay down his musket.

I was informed by General Hull the morning after the capitulation, that the British forces consisted of 1800 regulars, and that he surrendered to prevent the effusion of human blood. That he magnified their regular force nearly five fold, there can be no doubt. Whether the philanthropic reason assigned by him is a sufficient justification for surrendering a fortified town, an army and a territory, is for the Government to determine. Confident I am, that had the courage and conduct of the General been equal to the spirit and zeal of the troops, the event would have been brilliant and successful as it now is disastrous and dishonorable.

Very respectfully, sir, I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS,

Col. 3d Reg. Ohio Vol.

The Hon. W. M. EUSTIS,  
Secretary of War.

We do not see the necessity of laying all blame of the disgraceful capitulation at Detroit, at Mr. Madison's or at General Hull's door. There is as much as they can both shoulder. [Weekly Messenger.]

### GRAND EXPEDIENT!

[To keep contented an ill provided for army, to shoe the bare footed, clothe the destitute and supply every want of Provisions, the emaculate patriots of Vermont, fabricated and sent to the American Camp at Plattsburgh, the following "Good News."—It had its desired effect for about twenty four hours, when, sad to relate, the soldiers discovered it to be nothing more nor less than a foolish set of lies.]

### "GOOD NEWS."

"We stop the press to announce "the heart felt satisfaction" by an express, by the way of Albany, to David Fay, Adjutant General of this State, announcing, that Governor Harrison has retaken Fort Mackinaw, Fort Detroit, and has entered Canada, taken fort Malden and was marching towards fort Erie, where the British are preparing to make a stand against him. Fort Erie is on the Canada side of the river, about 27 miles above fort Niagara."

Captain Dunham, now Editor of the Washingtonian, printed in Vermont, commanded at Michillimackinac for a number of years previous to 1807.—It is a well known fact to many of the Officers of the 41st Regiment, that during the two last years that Captain Dunham held his command, he was under the necessity of borrowing provisions from the British Garrison to supply his troops.—Since the commencement of the present war—this transaction of Captain Dunham's has been brought against him as a misdemeanor by his political enemies. The first time that ever Captain Dunham publicly acknowledged the fact, was in his paper of the 21st ult. in an answer to one Doctor Newton;—He says—

"The Doctor thinks it British influence! A British Commissary dealing out Provisions to feed an American garrison, in a state of starvation, is British influence!! It was so, indeed;—and a kindly influence too:—for in the winter of 1807 it kept one hundred men, FULL BLOODED YANKEES from starving. Had Gen. Brock exercised the same influence now, it might have