





ATTACK ON SANDUSKY.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Harrison, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, Seneca Town, Aug. 4, 1813. SIR.—In my letter of the 1st instant I did myself the honor to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the Lake shore, and had discovered, the day before, the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky bay. The party had not passed Lower Sandusky two hours before the advance, consisting of Indians, appeared before the Fort, and in half an hour after a large detachment of British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the Fort with six pounders and two howitzers; the latter from gun boats. The firing was partially answered by Major Croghan, having a six pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals, during the second instant, until about half after five, P. M. when finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns, lieutenant colonel Short headed the principal one composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st regiment. This gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling & destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and the light company; at this moment a masked port hole was suddenly opened and a six pounder with an half load of powder and double charge of leaden slugs, at the distance of 30 feet poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the Fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired, after having suffered from the muskets of our men, to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night, the enemy, with the aid of their Indians, drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarking them in boats descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d inst. having heard the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the Fort, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make little impression upon the works, and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect, I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky.— But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons to endeavour to overtake them, leaving Generals M'Arthur & Cass to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place. I found it impossible to come up with them. Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's forces consisted of 490 regular troops, and 500 of Dixon's Indians, commanded by general Proctor in person, and that Tecumseh, with about 2000 warriors, was somewhere in the swamps, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions. As there was no prospect of doing any thing in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to General Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to general M'Arthur with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until the parties that were sent out in every direction returned—not an enemy was to be seen.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit you Major Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning, but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by thirty six hours of continued exertion as to be unable to make it. It will not be amongst the least of gen. Proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just past his twenty first year. He is, however, a hero worthy of his gallant uncle (general Geo. R. Clark).

Capt. Hunter, of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety; and never was a set of finer young fellows than the subalterns, viz. Lieutenants Johnson and Baylor of the 17th, Anthony of the 24th, Meeks of the 7th, and Ensigns Shipp and Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy, will excite your indignation.—Major Chambers was sent by Gen. Proctor, accompanied by Col. Elliott, to demand the surrender of the fort. They were met by Ensign Shipp. The Major observed, that Gen. Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of Regular Troops, and so many Indians, whom it was impossible to control; and if the fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred. Mr. Shipp answered, that it was the determination of Major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison, or be buried in it; and that they might do their best. Col. Elliott then addressed Mr. Shipp and said, you are a fine young man; I pity your situation; for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance. Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Elliott pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the first note received from major Croghan. It was written before day: and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch one Lieutenant-Colonel, one Lieutenant and twenty five privates: the number of prisoners, one sergeant and twenty five privates; 14 of them badly wounded: every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honors due to their rank and their bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch, were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack, that they should have lost less than one hundred. Some of the prisoners think that it amounted to 200. A young gentleman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by five or six of that company and of the Pittsburgh Blues, who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy.

I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

CREEK INDIANS. Middleville, July 31. The clouds of war thicken around us. A rupture with the Indians appears now to be inevitable.—May the signal for combat be the signal for their destruction! An express from Col. Hawkins to the Governor arrived here last evening with the following important information: "Our Runners have all come in. It is reduced to a certainty by the concurrent testimony of a number of respectable Indians that the civil war which has raged for some time among the Creeks originated in the British in Canada—that as soon as the Creeks friendly to the plan of civilization are destroyed or put to flight with their adherents, they will be ready for active hostility against the friendly Indians on Chattochee and the exposed part of our frontier settlement, and will attack them with the utmost delay. I request you to consider this as a authentic information of a mediated attack. More than 30 Indians have been killed on both sides since the retreat from Tookaubatchee. I sent yesterday for arms and ammunition for the Indians of Tookaubatchee. Chiefs are with me and will make a stand at Cowetau to gather the Indians of the neighboring towns and co-operate with our troops. Two or three hundred should be sent them without delay."

A talk from the friendly Chiefs was likewise received yesterday by his Excellency, from which we have made a few hasty extracts: "It is our duty to inform you of our situation. It is ten days since we left Tookaubatchee. We have received your letter and are happy to hear of the good wishes of our friends and their willingness to help us out of our difficulties. The Ojoktawes and Chickasaws near them are still killing our principal men and all who have taken your Talks. We are much frightened, in great distress, and obliged to send you for assistance. The enemy's force is 2500 men, and we are only 500. We are much in want of guns and ammunition. We wish it could be convenient for you to bring two field pieces. You may know the enemy if they should come among you by their being painted with red clay; but we have heard of none going that way yet."

In addition to the above, which was published in an extra sheet on Thursday, we have just learned that orders have been issued by the Executive to assemble a company of friendly and put down the hostile Indians. The force contemplated to be raised on this occasion will consist, we understand, of two regiments of drafted militia (Clark's and Daniel's divisions) and 4 or 500 volunteers from this state, and 1500 militia from Tennessee, and the 62 reg. U. S. regulars now ascending the Mississippi, having been lately directed to join the North Western Army. The troops from this state and the state of Tennessee are expected to form a junction in the Cherokee nation and proceed thence against the Creeks while the regulars attack them at some other point. The general government having taken cognizance of this business, it is likely active operations will be commenced as the orders are received from the War-Department, unless there is such imminent danger of invasion as will not admit of delay." Our own troops, however, will be ordered forthwith to the frontier, to act as expedients may require. It is yet uncertain who will lead the expedition.

ANNAPOLIS, AUG. 7. DEFENCE. On Wednesday and Thursday last a considerable body of troops arrived in this city from Fort Mifflin, to the amount of 1000 or 1200, under the command of Gen. Calvert and Pickett. A fine company of 32 militia volunteers from Richmond, Virginia, are also amongst the number, who are to proceed on their way to Canada when their services may no longer be wanting here. Collectively we have never seen a finer set of men. Our force in this city at present is formidable, and if judiciously disposed of, we are satisfied that if the enemy should think proper to attack us, he will pay dearly for his temerity. Additional fortifications have been ordered to be completed; the salvation of the city depends upon timely and vigorous preparations for defence. There is not a city in the United States possessed of more natural advantages, or susceptible of stronger fortifications.

Extract of a letter from Captain Perry to the Secretary of the Navy, dated August 4, 1813. "I have great pleasure in informing you that I have succeeded in getting over the Bar to the U. States vessels, the Lawrence, Niagara, Caledonia, the Ariel, Scorpion, Sumner, Tigress and Porcupine. The enemy have been in sight all day and are now about four leagues from us. We shall sail in pursuit of them at three tomorrow morning."

Extract of a letter from Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy. Niagara, August 4, 1813. SIR.—After leaving Sackett's Harbor I stretched over for the enemy's shore, and from thence stood up the Lake, the winds being light I did not arrive off the point until the evening of the 27th ult. On the 29th fell in with the Lady of the Lake on her return to Sackett's Harbor, with 600 prisoners from Fort George. I transferred the prisoners to the Raven and ordered her to Sackett's Harbor. The Lady of the Lake I dispatched to Fort George for guides for the head of the Lake.—Her Lord having informed me that the

enemy had a considerable deposit of provisions and stores at Burlington Bay, I was determined to attempt their destruction. On the 27th, I was joined by the Port, and on the 27th by the Lady of the Lake, with guides and Captain Croghan, who had voluntarily volunteered for the service.—After was thought advisable to take on board a quantity of provisions, and the next morning, at daylight, the officer were embarked before day to proceed for the head of the Lake, but owing to light winds and calms we did not arrive until the evening of the 29th. We sent two parties on shore and surprised and took some of the inhabitants. From whom we learned that the enemy had received considerable reinforcements within a day or two, and that his law force numbered the troops and marines and some of the militia, and had re-occupied the summit of very high ground and strongly entrenched his camp defended by about eight pieces of cannon. In this situation it was thought not advisable to attack him with a force scarcely half deficient in boats, and without artillery, we were also to cross the bay with all the troops at the same time. The men were all embarked in the same count, and in the evening we weighed and stood for York, arriving and anchored in that harbour at about 3 P. M. On the 31st we ran the schooners into the upper harbour, landed the Marines and soldiers under the command of the Col. Scott, and in opposition, found several hundred barrels of flour and provisions in the public store house, five pieces of cannon, eleven boats, and a quantity of shot, shells and other stores, all of which were either destroyed or brought on board all that the vessels could take, I directed the barracks and the public store houses to be burnt; we then re-embarked the men, and proceeded for this place, where I arrived yesterday between 4 and 500 men left York for the head of the Lake two days before we arrived there. Some few prisoners were taken, some of whom were paroled, the others have been landed at Fort George.

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by the small force in the fort, are proofs of an energy, a skill and heroism never excelled in ancient or modern times. Major CROGHAN is a native of Kentucky; his father, who also bears the title of Major, was an officer in the revolution, and resides near Louisville, Kentucky.—The young major is, as general Harrison remarked the late governor Lewis in the exploring expedition to the remote confines of the western world, and who is now governor of Upper Louisiana. From a personal acquaintance with him in his boyish days, we should imagine that he was not much more than twenty years old. He was educated for the profession of law; but on the breaking out of hostilities between America and G. Britain, he joined the standard of his country, and has remained in the army ever since. When at school he was considered an unusually smart and intelligent youth.—Generous in heart and in conduct, possessing great vivacity of disposition and manners, he was universally esteemed by his companions and acquaintances. We have not the least doubt, that if spared to the end of the war, he will, by his fearless intrepidity and heroic acts, shed a lustre on himself and his country, which neither envy nor time can ever obscure.

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