

was slow, orderly and unopposed, the Americans having a commanding position, strengthened by pickets and two 24-pounders, and retreating within the fort. As the British troops came nearer, the fire from the batteries on the Canadian shore improved, and some of the shots did considerable damage,—one particularly, took effect on a party of officers standing at the door of the quarters of one of them, and killed several. Meanwhile the woods echoed with the shouts of Tecumseh and his men, and it became evident that though strong on the water-side, the fort was by no means so well prepared to withstand an attack from the rear. Just as General Brock was on the point of ordering the assault, Captain Hall, the American Commander's son, appeared, bearing a flag of truce, with information that the enemy were prepared to surrender. Colonel McDonell and Captain Glegg were dispatched to arrange the terms of capitulation, and by noon the Union Jack floated from the heights of Detroit, and the army which "would look down all opposition," with its commanding officers, proclamation scribblers and Indian heroes to the number of 2,500 men were prisoners of war. This victory did not cost the British a single man. As a matter of course, the news excited in the States feelings of the greatest dismay, accompanied by strong indignation. The conquest of Canada had been looked upon as so easy and certain that people found it difficult to believe that not only had a check been received, but that the enemy were in actual possession of American territory. The words of Doctor Eustis, the Secretary of War, were ringing still in the ears of the people:—"We can take the Canadas," he had said, only a few days before, on the floor of Congress, "without soldiers; we have only to send officers into the provinces, and the people, disaffected towards their own government, will rally round our standard." Even the able Henry Clay seems to have shared the general misconception, for he is reported as declaring, on the same occasion:—"It is absurd to suppose we shall not succeed in our enterprise against the enemy's provinces. We have the Canadas as much under our command as Great Britain has the ocean." Taught by their leaders to expect an easy triumph, the dissatisfaction of the people at this unexpected reverse may readily be conceived. The administration felt the danger in which it stood from the general discontent, and naturally sought for some victim on whom to direct the accumulating wrath of the public. General Hull was chosen as the scapegoat. Colonels McArthur and Cass, though included in the capitulation, were not in the fort at the time of the surrender, having, two days before the attack, been despatched to the assistance of Captain Brush and his convoy. The consequence was that though prisoners of war, and unable to serve until exchanged, these gentlemen were not carried off to Canada, as were the other officers taken in the fort. Colonel Cass, therefore, hastened to Washington, while General Hull was on his way to Quebec, to lay before the American Government his history of the campaign. A more serviceable tool for the destruction of the unfortunate commander, the administration could not have found, and his services were therefore greedily accepted. He drew up his report in writing for the Secretary of War; it was immediately printed and widely distributed. The report is too lengthy to give entire; let it suffice to say that it is graced with all the modesty, good taste, fine feeling, and studied simplicity of style and purity of diction which marks the celebrated proclamation to the Canadians drawn by the same masterly hand. It concludes with the following assertion, which is important as having been confirmed