

peat their aggressions. The matter was growing serious, especially, as a harbor was openly afforded for the runaway slaves, a number of whom had been left by the British, on their retreat from Florida, and who might form a dangerous rallying point.

An occurrence took place in the month of November, which called for active measures on the part of the United States. Lieutenant Scott, descending the Appalachicola in a boat, with about fifty persons, many of them women and children, was suddenly attacked, and with the exception of one woman, the whole party was massacred by the Indians, with circumstances of cruelty seldom exceeded even among those barbarous people. The Indians, in the meantime, fancying themselves in perfect security, within the Spanish limits, had collected in considerable force, apparently elated by their recent exploit. Towards the close of the year, General Gains received discretionary orders to pass the Spanish boundary, and march into the Indian country, if this should be found the only means of repressing their barbarous inroads into our territory.

On the receipt of the intelligence of the murder of Lieutenant Scott and his party, General