

and timber among them and killing more of them than had been killed in battle. General Pike was among the injured, and he died of his wounds before the surrender of the town. The explosion was said to have been accidental. If it had been a part of General Sheaffe's plan for the destruction of military stores, this was not admitted. The enemy looked upon it as a wanton destruction of life and property after actual resistance was over.

Sheaffe reached Kingston in safety, taking with him most of the regular soldiers; but he had lost at York the credit he had won at Queenston, and he was soon relieved of his command and transferred to Lower Canada.

Terms of capitulation were arranged in the afternoon of the twenty-seventh, by which the remaining troops, to the number of about three hundred, were surrendered as prisoners of war, and all that remained of the naval and military stores was given up. Then followed the destructive work of the invaders for which this date is chiefly memorable. They burned the parliament buildings with their library and records, robbed the church of its silver, and carried off the books of the town library. They also plundered private property in violation of the terms of the capitulation, and several private houses were left in ruin. These depredations were, perhaps, the work of riotous soldiers or sailors who had got beyond control, or of undisciplined youths in officers' uniform, of whom, unfortunately, there were too many in the hastily organized United States army. Commodore Chauncey, before he sailed away, collected and sent back some of the books. The burning of the parliament buildings was avenged in the following year by the burning of the public buildings at Washington.

May 5.—Near the site of the present city of Toledo, General Harrison who had retreated to Miami after the battle of Raisin River, had built a new fort to strengthen his position; naming it Fort Meigs, in honour of the Governor of Ohio. At the end of April he held this fort with a garrison of thirteen hundred men; and he was daily expecting the arrival of as many more, under the command of a general who bore the remarkable name of Green Clay. Procter, who had been promoted for his victory at the Raisin and was now Brigadier-General Procter, knew of the expected reinforcement, and determined to attack Fort Meigs before General Clay's arrival. Leaving Amherstburg for that purpose on the twenty-third of April, he reached the Miami on the twenty-eighth, with about

a thousand white troops, and some fifteen hundred Indians under Tecumseh. He immediately began the erection of batteries on the left bank of the river, opposite the new fort.

Early on the morning of the first of May, his guns were in position and the bombardment began. It continued for four days; at the end of which time the enemy's guns were silenced, but the fort was not surrendered.

On the morning of the fifth of May, General Clay's army appeared, coming down the river in boats. A very violent rainstorm to some extent covered his movements. One-third of his men he landed on the south side of the river, where there were but few besiegers, and they reached the fort with little loss. The other two-thirds, under a subordinate officer, Colonel Dudley, had orders to land on the north side, take the British batteries, spike the guns, and then return to their boats and cross over to the fort. They took the batteries; but they spiked the guns with the wooden ramrods of their muskets, which did no real injury, and they disobeyed the order to return at once to their boats. The result was a signal defeat. The captured batteries were soon retaken; Dudley himself and about four hundred of his men were taken prisoners; many others were killed in action, and, of the eight hundred and more who had landed with him, only a hundred and fifty reached the boats and made their escape. Meanwhile a small British battery on the other side of the river was taken and retaken. The British lost less than a hundred men in both encounters; the loss of the Americans was six or seven hundred.

There is too much truth in the story of Indian atrocities at Miami. Forty of the prisoners taken in this battle were killed by Indians before Tecumseh rode up and put a stop to the massacre, and Colonel Dudley was among the victims. It was the work of Chippeways who had taken no part in the fight.

The Indians found such rich spoils in the capture of General Clay's supplies that most of them went off home with their plunder, leaving General Procter with so few men that he had to abandon the siege. On the ninth, therefore, he broke up his encampment and withdrew, taking with him all his guns and stores. Although he had failed to capture the fort, he was satisfied that he had effectually checked the enemy's advance for the time. Nevertheless, he foresaw that a further advance could only be a question of time if the British finally lost control of the lake. The support for which he had asked in vain was now more needed than ever.