

the person of Amable Chevalier, one of their chiefs, who was the half-breed son of Louis Chevalier, a well-known French-Canadian trader. He was born and brought up among the Ottawas of L'Arbre Croche, but had for some years resided at the lake of the Two Mountains, near Montreal, whence he had returned to the "upper country" the autumn before to hunt during the winter. His influence among his mother's people was considerable, and he made every effort to engage them in the British interest. On the 12th of July most of the principal chiefs arrived at St. Joseph's and reported that no reinforcements had arrived at Mackinac when they had passed that island the day before. Robert instantly held a council, at which he made known his design; and after a long private consultation among themselves, and "much prevarication," they agreed to join him, and returned to their villages to arm their warriors. But even Chevalier afterwards admitted that "he never could bring himself to have confidence in their fidelity."

By that time another express had arrived from Brock with orders to suspend hostilities. Three days later, a third express came in with instructions "to adopt the most prudent measures, either of offence or defence, that circumstances might point out;" and, being informed at the same time that reinforcements were expected at Mackinac, Roberts determined to attack that place at once. He had assembled 230 Canadians and 320 Indians, but among the latter there were only thirty Ottawas. Amable Chevalier was sent off to their villages to collect the remainder and join the expedition at the island. At ten o'clock on the morning of the 16th July the regulars, with two six-pounders, were embarked on the "Caledonia," and accompanied by 150 *voyageurs*, only half of whom were armed, and 300 Indians, in a fleet of ten batteaux and seventy canoes, set sail for Mackinac. The lake was calm and the voyage was without incident until midnight, when a canoe was seen approaching in the moonlight. It was pursued and taken. The prisoner proved to be Michael Donsman, an American trader sent out to reconnoitre St. Joseph's by the commandant of Mackinac, whose suspicions had been excited by the conduct of the Ottawas.

"By the almost unparalleled exertions of the Canadians," Captain Roberts reported, "we arrived at the place of rendezvous at three o'clock the following morning." The Ottawas had not arrived, but a landing was made at once without opposition, and the prisoner Donsman was sent to the settlement to warn the inhabitants to seek