

Regulars 94 men
Rangers and Militia Dragoons 70 men

Total 164 men

The latter had, however, the inestimable advantage of a superior location, together with an excellent knowledge of bush fighting, which threw the possibilities as well as the probabilities of success into their hands from the very beginning of the action. The great inequality of loss in this fight is therefore to be attributed to the judicious position chosen by Holmes (or rather chosen by the renegade Canadian who, according to tradition, selected it for him and also suggested pouring water on the face of the hill to make ice), who compelled Basden to attack him at a very great disadvantage, and this very event of itself, we are assured by one writer, more than his bravery deserves the reward of success. Possessing also the advantage of dress which renders him undistinguishable to the eye of a foe, the American backwoodsman enters into a contest with the British Regulars, whose glaring uniform and shining accoutrements are objects too conspicuous to be missed, while his utter ignorance of a mode of warfare in which courage and discipline are completely worthless, renders the struggle for mastery still more unequal. Holmes states that he behaved very humanely towards the killed and wounded British, not even allowing his men to remove the shoes from off the feet of the slain, although many of his own men were then marching in their stocking feet. He also gives special credit, in his report to Lieut.-Col. Butler, for their services in this contest to Lieutenants Knox and Henry of the 28th Kentucky and Jackson and Potter of the 24th Tennessee detachments, as well as Captain Lee of the Michigan Militia Dragoons; Sailing-Master Darling, who had upon setting out on this expedition, volunteered to command the artillery which was subsequently abandoned at Pointe au Pelee, is also thanked for the part he took in this engagement. He likewise expresses his gratitude to Ensign Heard of the 28th for his services in connection with this victory. Heard acted as Holmes' adjutant and rendered him valuable assistance at the

conference of officers, on the night previous to the fight, concerning the advisability of a retreat or a contest with the foe.

Holmes was, however, well aware that, notwithstanding his success at "Battle Hill," his prospects for the capture of either Delaware or Port Talbot were now more remote than ever, since a superior force—although a lately beaten one—lay between him and either of these places, and he could not hope for a blunder like Basden's to be repeated. He therefore began a rapid march from the field at Twenty Mile Creek at nine o'clock on the evening of this action of Friday, March 4th, 1814, and reached Detroit, a distance of about ninety miles from the scene of his late conflict, in time to allow Butler to make a short report of the fight to Major General Harrison, under date of March 7th, which report was transmitted to headquarters through Lieut. Shannon of the 27th New York.

It will thus be seen that Holmes felt ill at ease while a single mile intervened between his command and the palisaded fort on the American side of the Detroit River. Under date March 10th he issued a much fuller report of action to Butler, which was afterwards forwarded to Harrison. In speaking of this expedition, says Gen. Armstrong, "it may be enough to say, that having a worthless object, and inadequate means, it ought not to have been adopted, for of what importance to the United States would have been the capture or destruction of a blockhouse in the heart of the enemy's country, more than one hundred miles distant from our frontier, and which, if held would have been difficult to sustain, and if destroyed, easily reinstated.

"On the day following the engagement, the British detachments, after having definitely ascertained by a flank movement through the woods north of the road that the enemy had disappeared, resumed their former position at Delaware, which was more than once raided during the continuance of the war.

On March 7th Stewart received a communication from Riall requesting him to retreat from Delaware in consequence of a report, which subsequent-

ly turned out to be a body of 500 men advancing upon the post. On 11th Regulars at Pointe au Pelee, now (C) Rangers under distance from now standing.

The ground taken up by half of lot north of the township Middlesex, in the first Road in the former lot Crown to the patent before November, also granted late Jeremiah July, 1831.

Formerly military business of minders of time to tire this forest. These find and rarer till now the purposes, notwithstanding modern remedies. Gre just been edge of the year long-forged charge up time previous bones of an American field, just occupied by ments of bleak after March.

Local to many years over man this fight them with duct of errors to be accuracy. I Tours and nockburn