

ble manner. The importance of the information thus obtained was warmly insisted upon by Brock in justification of his conduct in advancing against Detroit. "I got possession of the letters of my antagonist addressed to the Secretary of War, and also of the sentiments of hundreds of his army uttered to his friends. Confidence in their general was gone and evident despondency prevailed. I crossed the river, contrary to the opinion of Colonel Proctor and others, and it is therefore no wonder that envy should attribute to good fortune what in justice to my own discernment I must say proceeded from a cool calculation of the pros and contras."

The possession of so much of General Hull's confidential correspondence also enabled Colonel Baynes to contest effectively the charge made by General Dearborn soon after, that the British alone had sought the assistance of the Indians in the war.

Describing his interview with the latter, Baynes said that "General Dearborn deprecated in strong language the employing the Indians in our contest and insinuated that the disposition originated with the British, and inferring that the conduct of America was free from that reproach. I refuted this insinuation by assuring the General that we were in possession of intercepted letters of General Hull affording indubitable proof that he had not only entered into engagements with Indian tribes, but had employed emissaries to endeavor to gain over those supposed to be attached to the British interest; that it was highly to be lamented, the necessity of employing such means, but as it was well known the disposition of these people would always lead them to take an active part, it was a matter of necessity to prevent their decision being in favor of our enemy."

The surrender of Detroit was followed by the evacuation of Fort Dearborn, at Chicago, and the massacre of many of the garrison, and the investment of Fort Wayne by the Indians of Illinois.

These events became known to Colonel Proctor, who succeeded Brock in command of the British forces at Detroit, about the 9th of September, when he wrote that "the garrison of Chicago has been taken by the Indians, partly by stratagem, more than a fortnight since, and I am sorry to say that the garrison, consisting of 50 men, and every other person excepting an officer and his lady, who were wounded, and a