

territory into the county of Illinois, and the next year Col. JOHN TODD was, at CLARK's request, sent out as civil Governor.

The news of this disaster to British interests aroused Gov. HAMILTON to the most vigorous efforts to retrieve it. It was obvious that this conquest had panic-stricken the Indians, and threatened the whole British power in the North West. In the spring of 1777, Col. MORGAN, at Pittsburgh, wrote to Gov. HENRY, that there were only 66 soldiers at Detroit ; but there were at this time about 500 troops there. There were four companies of the Eighth or King's Regiment, commanded by Maj. LERNOULT ; two companies of BUTLER's Rangers, commanded by Capt. CALDWELL, and one of the Fourth Regiment, commanded by Capt. AUBREY.\* The British also had a small navy that commanded the Lakes. There were usually several hundred Indians gathered about the Fort at Detroit ; but never more than twenty-five were permitted within the gates at one time, and these were unarmed. At the very time when HAMILTON received the news of CLARK's success, there was a large gathering of Indians there with whom he was holding negotiations. He gave them the hatchet anew, and urged them to more general and violent assaults upon the frontier, and to hold themselves in readiness to join him in proposed movements against the Americans. He sent by some Delawares present, a menacing letter to the Council of the Delawares, calling upon them "for the last time" to take up the hatchet, and was greatly infuriated at their firm refusal, and at once ordered an expedition against them, consisting of Indians and a few soldiers, commanded by two Captains, with orders to return with the scalps of both chiefs and missionaries, but the sudden death of the two officers frustrated the expectation.

HAMILTON immediately planned an exhibition for the recovery of the Illinois, to be commanded by himself. It was composed of thirty regulars, fifty volunteers, and four or five hundred Indians. The volunteers were subsequently paid for their services from the 17th of September, but the expedition did not leave Detroit until the 7th of October. It is evident that his first purpose was

\* Judge MAY's statement.

It may be added, that the Capt. AUBREY alluded to, was probably Capt. THOMAS AUBREY, of Sir GUY CARLETON's, or the Forty-Seventh British Regiment, serving in America at this period. The Army List of 1780 gives no other officer of that or any similar name then in the British service.

C. I. W.

L. C. D.