

and the Indians were then informed that the terms of peace would be made with Sir W. Johnson, to whom they were to send a deputation, for which Bouquet took hostages, who, however, broke their parole on the first convenient opportunity. The army, having accomplished its work, returned to Fort Pitt on the 28th November. The recovered captives were sent to their homes in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the provincial troops disbanded.

The Houses of Assembly of Virginia and Pennsylvania passed votes of thanks to Col. Bouquet, and petitioned the King to promote him; and he was appointed Brigadier General with the command of the Southern Department. Within three years this able soldier died at Pensacola of fever.

The end of the war was that the Delawares and Shawnees made peace with Sir W. Johnson on condition that they should grant free passage to English troops and travellers, make full restitution for all goods taken during the war from traders, and assist in taking possession of the Illinois. In every essential particular the arrangements entered into by Bradstreet were those eventually carried out; and his case furnishes another striking instance of the injustice a brave man may be subjected to when under the command of an officer remarkable alone for vacillation.

The country of the Illinois in 1764 was chiefly comprised within the boundaries of the State which now bears its name. Its northern boundary touched Lake Michigan, its southern the Mississippi. Its principal posts were, Fort Chartres, on the left bank of that river, which has since swept away every vestige of it, but its position may be stated as being about forty three miles below St. Louis, Cahokia, nearly opposite that town, Kaskaskia, about twelve miles below Fort Chartres, and Vincennes, above the forks of the Wabash, but the chief post was Fort Chartres.

France, by the Treaty of Paris, had ceded all her territories east of the Mississippi, including the Illinois country, to England, and, either as the price of the feeble assistance rendered in the disastrous war concluded by that treaty, or, in a moment of infatuation, eager to get rid of the burden of defending territories of which her rulers knew nothing, threw away upon Spain the vast regions beyond the Mississippi. This latter arrangement was, however, kept secret for some time, but orders were at once sent to the officers commanding posts within the territory ceded to Great Britain to evacuate them whenever an English force should appear to demand the surrender. Some time elapsed before that demand was made. The Indian war was at its height, and access to the country was impracticable. The orders for the evacuation of the territory reached Fort Chartres early in 1763. The commandant, Neyou de Villiers, not choosing to submit to the humiliation of sur-

rendering the Fort handed over the command to St. Ange de Bellerive, a veteran Canadian officer who forty years before had escorted the celebrated Father Charlevoix through the country; with 40 men, the remnant of the Garrison, he took command of the Fort, one of the best constructed works at that period in America, armed with 20 pieces of artillery. De Villiers descended to New Orleans only escaping one mortification to plunge into another, as that town was expecting every hour the arrival of a Spanish Governor and garrison.

Many colonists abandoned those frontier posts; amongst others Pierre Laclède who had left New Orleans in August, 1763, with his followers and founded St. Louis on the right bank of the Mississippi; his assistant Pierre Chouteau survived till the first half of the present century was passed and witnessed the growth of the great commercial city at whose foundation he was present.

St. Ange's position was very troublesome importuned for arms, ammunition and assistance by Pontiac and his abettors, a stern sense of duty prevented compliance which had only the effect of incensing his allies who were with difficulty restrained from taking by force what prudence and honor denied them.

The double campaign of 1764 completely destroyed the hopes of Pontiac as far as the Western and Northern tribes were concerned, but those peopling the Illinois, fierce, restless, and hating the English thoroughly were proper instruments for his purpose. By rapid marches, audacity, and the usual exciting causes of savage enthusiasm he managed to heighten the rage of those tribes against the English. Finally he appeared before Fort Chartres demanding aid from St. Ange which the latter was forced to decline; he finally descended to New Orleans and demanded from the Governor M. D'Abbadie the aid which his lieutenant denied.

Early in 1764, a Major Loftus with 400 regular soldiers attempted to ascend the Mississippi for the purpose of taking possession of Fort Chartres, about 240 miles above New Orleans, his boats were fired on from the bank and several men killed. As the river was then at its height and Loftus ignorant of the topography he returned to New Orleans in a disgraceful manner and then retired to Pensacola. This defeat greatly aided Pontiac's scheme, and were it not for the blow struck by Bradstreet hostilities might have been indefinitely prolonged.

It was now determined to operate by way of Fort Pitt and the Ohio, and Sir William Johnson's assistant, George Croghan, a man every way fitted for the enterprise, was ordered to proceed in advance to prepare the way for the passage of the troops, reason with the Indians, expose the falsehoods of the French, and by a judicious distribution of presents soften their antipathy to the English. Thoroughly well fitted to discharge this arduous duty by previous

experience, this able and accomplished man started in February 1765, but the murdering and cowardly scoundrels of the Pennsylvania frontier settlements who had skulked during danger, disguised themselves as Indians and plundered his train of pack horses laden with goods as presents for the Indians taking what suited their fancy and burning the rest; thus endeavoring to make all efforts at conciliation impossible and checking the ambassador on the threshold of his mission. Croghan, however, was a man of resources, and having replenished his stores from the magazines at Fort Pitt proceeded on his mission.

American writers are fond of bespattering those turbulent lawless border villains with praise for such mischievous and cowardly freaks as the above, and condemn English officers because they contemned such ruffians; it is easily enough seen that if they were anything like the brave men they are described to be that there was quite enough of them to put down the few Indians who attacked them; on the contrary, on almost every occasion they fled before a handful of savages whose wrath they had provoked by crimes too gross to record.

The great depth of snow detained Croghan for several weeks at Fort Pitt, and his progress was yet further retarded by the necessity for holding a Council with the Delaware and Shawnees (along whose borders he would be compelled to pass) and to make them fulfil the treaty entered into with Bradstreet and Bouquet. After more than a month's detention this object was effected—all the prisoners restored and a promise repeated of sending deputies to treat Johnson at Niagara to conclude a hasty treaty.

On the 15th May, Croghan left Fort Pitt and embarked on the Ohio accompanied by several Delaware and Shawnee chief. At the mouth of the Scioto he was met by a band of Shawnee warriors who delivered several Frenchmen who had been stirring them up to mischief into his hands; then he pursued his voyage to the mouth of the Wabash where, on the 8th of June, he was attacked by a band of Kickapoos, several of his men killed, and the rest taken prisoners. Hardly however, had this been accomplished when the Indians found out the mistake committed and apologised with many excuses for what had occurred—they conducted Croghan and his surviving companions to Vincennes and thence to Outanow where they arrived on the 23rd of June—here they were detained for some days reconciling differences and treating of peace with the tribes in the neighborhood, and he received a message from St. Ange requesting him to come to Fort Chartres to adjust affairs in that quarter. Croghan prepared to obey this summons and had proceeded a short distance when he met Pontiac with a numerous train of chiefs and warriors who courteously saluted and gave his hand to the English Envoy; they returned together to the Fort where Pontiac