

a small block house at the Cascade, where the large vessels were built. Though in command, he sanctioned the pilfering of the stores he was sent to protect; and when information was given to the military commander he, with his party, made mutinous demonstrations, but soon were conquered. Lieut. Brooks, of the marines, was recruiting for the squadron, and Bird being a man of pluck, Brooks wished to secure him. Bird, with others, were told that "the offense would be overlooked, provided they would enlist as marines," which they did. Bird served gallantly on board the "Lawrence" during the action, and was wounded. At the time the squadron was preparing for the Mackinaw expedition, Bird was placed with a file of marines to guard the Government store, and from where he deserted, taking John Rankin, one of the guards with him. A youngster belonging to Erie was on his way to school at Washington, Penn'a, on horseback, having spent his vacation at home, and passed the two men at a tavern near Butler. Having seen the men while on duty at the store, he knew them. He pushed on his journey, and soon met Sailing Master Colwell with a draft of seamen in wagons, destined for Erie to join the squadron, and to whom the youngster gave the information. Colwell sent a party in advance in disguise, captured, and brought them to Erie. They, with a sailor named John Davis, who had deserted a number of times, and committed other offenses, were tried by court martial on board the 'Niagara,' while on the passage of the squadron to Detroit. They were all three condemned to death. Efforts were made to have Bird's sentence commuted to imprisonment, in consequence of his gallantry in the action of the 10th of Sep-