

numbers, could hardly fail to be disastrous to his opponent. The British loss in this affair was heavy, amounting to one officer and twenty-two men killed, twelve officers and one hundred and fifteen men wounded, and fifty-five men missing ; but the effect upon the enemy, who were thereby thrown back to the frontier and reduced from an offensive to a defensive force, compelled to depend upon their own resources, can hardly be overestimated. In the morning the United States troops re-occupied their camp, but only remained in it long enough to destroy their tents and stores, after which they commenced a retreat to Forty-Mile Creek, where the British fleet found them on the 7th, and on the following morning opened fire and summoned them to surrender. Although declining to surrender, the United States commander thought it prudent to fall back upon Fort George. Supported by the fleet, the British force pressed upon their rear, and the fleet captured twelve batteaux, containing officers' baggage and stores.—June 23rd. Lieut.-Colonel Børstler, of the United States army, was despatched from Fort George with the 14th United States Infantry, two field-guns, and some dragoons, amounting together to a little over six hundred men, to surprise the British outpost at the Beaver Dam. The expedition was planned and the men were assembled with rapidity and secrecy ; but, in spite of the precautions taken, the object and destination of the expedition became known to a few persons, amongst whom was James Secord, a militiaman, who had been severely wounded at Queenston. Secord, crippled by his wounds, was unable to move, but his wife, Mary, animated by the love of her country, undertook a mission which a man, strictly guarded as the lines of the United States army were, could hardly hope to

accomplish. With womanly tact, she threw the United States sentry off his guard, passed the lines, and, once in the woods, made her way rapidly, and reached the British outpost by nightfall. Her errand was soon communicated to Lieutenant Fitzgibbon, who at once made his own preparations, and notified Major de Haren. At daybreak on the 24th Børstler's force encountered Kerr's Mohawks. Kerr, not having more than thirty Indians, had recourse to the tactics of his countrymen, and hung upon the flanks and rear of his enemy, inflicting such loss as he could and harassing his march. On emerging from the woods into a clearing (near the present village of Thorold) Colonel Børstler found himself confronted by Lieutenant Fitzgibbon's detachment, so placed that their weakness might not be discovered ; and upon his flanks and rear Kerr's Indians, and the few militia whom the noise of the firing had attracted from their homes, kept up an incessant but desultory attack. At this moment Fitzgibbon, whose cool, soldierlike bearing cannot fail to excite the warmest admiration, advanced with a white handkerchief and coolly proposed to Børstler that he should surrender. The United States commander, bewildered by the incessant yells of the Indians, and, as he believed, surrounded by the enemy, agreed to capitulate, and actually surrendered five hundred and twelve men, two field guns, and the colours of the 14th United States Infantry to a lieutenant of the 49th in command of a detachment of forty-six men, supported by about as many Indians and militia. Fortunately the self-command of Lieutenant Fitzgibbon never for one moment deserted him, and he, therefore, managed to prolong the arrangement of the capitulation so that by the time it was actually signed, Major de Haren had