

on shore,—the *Guerriere*, which was also owned by Captain Wilkeson, being of this number; and several were totally wrecked.

Before canals and railroads came into general use, Perrysburg was expected to become the great business and shipping point at the head of Lake Erie. The place which was then known as Toledo was so marshy, and consequently so unhealthy, that people could not stay there and live. Swan Creek, a little above, was but little better. Port Lawrence, Vistula and Manhattan were hardly known then but in name, all lying below Swan Creek. Perrysburg and Maumee (nearly opposite) were ten miles up the Maumee river at the head of ship navigation, and therefore were thought to have great advantages not possessed by any of those places lower down. At this time commerce on our lakes was flourishing. The sail vessels, as a general rule, carried the furs, grain and produce from the west, and received a fair compensation, while the steamboats carried the passengers. Captain Wilkeson having settled in Perrysburg, took a deep interest in the prosperity of the place, and of its inhabitants. He was notably most generous and kind towards the poor families that settled in the town. He generally refused to dispose of his spare produce (for he did some farming,) to those who would pay him cash, but reserved it for the poor, trusting them until they were able to pay. He was truly the poor man's friend. He was ever ready to help the industrious and those who were trying to help themselves, and thus he contributed to the welfare and thrift of Perrysburg and vicinity by causing the settlement there of many industrious families.

Captain Wilkeson was always well liked by those who served under him. It is true that in the discharge of his duty he compelled and exacted implicit and prompt obedience to his commands; and, if everything was not done in exact accordance with his orders, did not hesitate to pour out upon the head of the offender the vials of his wrath in terms more em-