

at Fort George. Lossing, the latest American writer who deals with these events, says: "The impetuous Eldridge dashed forward into the thick wood and fell into an ambush prepared for him by Blackbird and his followers. The foe was repulsed at first, but overwhelming numbers crushed Eldridge and his little party. Only five escaped. The prisoners and wounded were butchered and scalped by the Western savages, whose conduct was marked by the most atrocious barbarity." Then in a note below, quoting the following from Capt. W. H. Merritt's journal: "The poor devils were crying and imploring me to save their lives, as I was the only white man present. The Indians promised me the lives of the prisoners should be spared — would only frighten them a great deal to prevent them coming again. I made a solemn vow if a prisoner was killed never to go out with an Indian again." He goes on to say: "The savages violated their pledge, and butchered their prisoners with a barbarity too revolting to be repeated here. . . . The excuse made for the murder of Eldridge was that after he was made prisoner he treacherously drew a concealed pistol and shot one of the chiefs through the head. This was Blackbird's reason for murdering *all!* . . . . An investigation proved the assertion of the savage leader to be wholly untrue, and this crime (strange as it may appear) stands uncondemned by British writers, one of pure barbarian cruelty." How far these details were purely imaginative can best be judged by a comparison with the official papers I am now enabled to cite.

On the 7th of July, 1813, Lieut.-Col. John Harvey wrote as follows to Colonel Claus:—

7th July, 1813, 10 p.m.

You are to move forward a body of Indians to-morrow morning in the direction of Fort George, to take post in front of —— house, where some medicines belonging to the army were deposited, which it is the object of this