

ventured to attack the British outposts. On the 13th August Claus wrote to Harvey:—"Our piquets retired this morning. The one in front of Ball's was fired upon by twenty rifles at upwards of 100 yards. They must have been in the bush all night. Some shots were exchanged, but the distance was too great to do any hurt. The one by Secord's did not perceive anything."

The following extract from a letter dated at Fort George on the 15th August, which appeared in the *Buffalo Gazette* a few days later, probably explains the cause of this unusual demonstration. The writer says:—"Our picket guards during the week have been almost constantly in alarm. On the night of the 13th an attack was made by a pretty formidable force, but flying artillery was sent out, and they dispersed. The attacks have been principally made by Indians. The British are supposed to number 2,000 regulars, 500 or 600 militia and 300 or 400 Indians. There is no doubt they are short of provisions."

The first dispersal of the Indians to their homes could not be much longer delayed. On the 15th Claus addressed the following to Harvey announcing this fact:—

CROSS ROADS, Aug. 15th, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that seven of the Chippawas have left, and the Western Indians, after some persuasion, have agreed to stay till the end of this quarter of the moon. A few nights ago they spoke of going, but it appears they only did it for an excuse for asking for some liquor. This morning they appear determined to go at the time they mentioned. A requisition is making out for some clothing, on application of Blackbird. I assure you I dread the orders of the 7th inst."

The letter-book ends abruptly with the following interesting fragment of a letter, probably from Col. Matthew Elliott, although the signature is wanting, which throws some new light on Proctor's last offensive movement:—

DETROIT, Aug. 8th, 1813.

MY DEAR CLAUS.—I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours