

order re-issued. The same day on which Captain Roberts received General Brock's despatch of the 28th June, commanding the attack upon Michilimakinack, he received from Sir George Prevost instructions to take every precaution to secure himself from attack, and in case of necessity to make good his retreat. This communication must be looked upon as not only unwise but most irregular. Captain Roberts was under the immediate command of General Brock, and any orders to him should have come through the channel of his superior officer. Fortunately, Captain Roberts followed the bolder course and commenced his preparations at once. On the 16th of July he set forth, accompanied by forty-five officers and men of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, about 180 Canadians, and nearly 400 Indians. The American fort was defended only by sixty-one officers and men, so resistance would have proved useless. A capitulation therefore was agreed upon, by which a quantity of military stores and some 700 packs of furs fell into the hands of the British. The officer in command of the fort, it is said, was not aware, until he was called upon to surrender, that war had been declared,—a fact which would seem to prove that the Canadian officials did not completely monopolize remissness of duty and carelessness. The capture of Michilimakinack seems rather to have been deprecated than otherwise by Sir George Prevost, but General Hull does not hesitate to attribute to it mainly the surrender of Detroit, which followed soon after. It no doubt gave Canada the command of the upper lakes, and let loose upon the Americans the Western Indian tribes, whose ferocity they so much dreaded. The fort of Michilimakinack was a very old one. As early as 1671, the French missionaries had founded an establishment on the place, and the spot is invested with interest as the scene of a dreadful massacre during the uprising

of the Indian tribes under the redoubtable Pontiac.

Meanwhile, the position of General Hull at Sandwich was every day becoming more precarious. Not only did the people of the country, in spite of Colonel Cass's eloquent proclamations, neglect to join his formidable army, which was to look down all opposition, but joining the handful of regulars at Colonel Proctor's command, and assisted by a daring body of Indians led by Tecumseh, they actually resisted every effort of the Americans to penetrate further into the country. The invaders found themselves on strange and hostile soil, and obliged to depend for supplies upon shipments from Detroit, a precarious position, as at that time the British held the supremacy of the lakes. Discouragement and discontent gradually found their way through the ranks, and General Hull, one of the heroes of the War of Independence, and Colonel Cass, who in consequence of a trifling success in an insignificant skirmish, had been christened by his admirers the "Hero of Ta-ron-tee," very soon found that it was as much as they could do, not to push the enemy before them, but to prevent their army from becoming completely demoralized and broken up. At this juncture news reached the American commander, whose men were already suffering from scarcity of provisions, that Captain Brush, of Chilicothe, who was marching to his assistance, had reached the ford of the Raisin, thirty-five miles from Detroit, with two hundred Ohio volunteers, a hundred beef cattle, and the mail. General Hull, aware that Tecumseh and his braves were on the look out for the convoy, deemed it prudent to despatch Major Van Horne, with two hundred men to join Captain Brush and act as escort. At the same time Colonel Proctor sent Captain Tallow, with a few men of the 41st and some of the Indians, to Brownstown, a village opposite Amherstburg, to assume the