

Detroit, January 22nd, 1813. Turning upon Gen. Clay, he defeated him also, at the Battle of the Miami, May 5th, 1813, and would have captured Fort Meigs had he been assisted by the Indians as promptly as he had a right to expect.

After an unsuccessful attack upon Fort Stephenson, Aug. 1st, 1813, he recrossed the River at Amherstburg, and retired temporarily to Sandwich, leaving the Indians in the neighborhood of the former place.

On Sept. 10th, 1813, was fought the naval battle of Lake Erie, in which the British fleet under Captain Robert Herriott Barclay, a veteran of the Nile and of Trafalgar, was defeated by the American squadron under Captain Oliver Hazard Perry, who captured every vessel and after the fight towed them into the harbor of Sandusky.

At this point it may perhaps be well to notice that although Perry is often spoken of as "Commodore," yet he held no such rank in the American navy. Isaac Chauncey was the commodore, and Perry's commission as post-captain only dates from the day of his victory over Barclay, namely, Sept. 10th, 1813.

Procter's frequent calls for reinforcements from headquarters on the Niagara frontier, where Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe commanded, were unheeded, (and in fact could not be spared), and thus he was compelled to undertake the arduous task of leading his diminutive force of 850 British and Canadians, besides a body of about a thousand Indians under Tecumseh, to a place where they might hope to make a successful stand against Harrison's army of 3,500 men, having first arranged with the Indians' chieftain that they should face the enemy at Chatham or Moravian Town. The loss of the fleet had deprived Procter (now Major-General) of the only means of communication open to him with his friends on the Niagara frontier, except by the roads, if such they might be called, stretching along the Detroit and Thames rivers, and thence through the boggy forests away to the east.

Procter abandoned Amherstburg on Sept. 24th, 1813, and calling in the garrisons of Sandwich and Detroit as he proceeded, retreated as rapidly as circumstances would permit, closely

followed by Harrison, who crossed the Detroit River at its mouth, and occupied Amherstburg only three days after the departure of Procter from that same place. Having been joined at Sandwich by his detachment of 1,500 Kentucky mounted riflemen under Governor Isaac Shelby, an old Revolutionary veteran, Harrison closely pursued Procter's worn out and dispirited force, and reached a point on the north bank of the Thames, a mile and a half west of Moravian Town, on Oct. 5th, only two hours after the arrival of the British and their Indian allies at this same locality.

The British troops had received no pay for several months, and three gunboats and one brig, which accompanied the army as it marched along the banks of the aforesaid rivers, had to be destroyed, along with their cargoes, including the ammunition for the troops, to prevent their becoming the prizes of their swift-footed and exultant foe. Procter, too was on bad terms with the rank and file of his army, and his knowledge of bushfighting was of the most meagre description, and between him and Tecumseh there was an entire lack of sympathy, without which in any case success need scarcely be even hoped for.

Thus when the handful of British troops, now reduced to 478 men through sickness, desertions and captures on the way, turned to face their enemy near Moravian Town, in the tall forest, thickly strewn with autumn leaves, on the afternoon of Oct. 5th, 1813, the expressions used by many of them showed that they were ready to strike a last blow, but they instinctively felt that it was indeed to be the last. Many of our readers are already familiar with the details of this engagement, which lasted only about twenty minutes, terminating with Procter's defeat and the death of Tecumseh, who fell by the pistol shot of an officer of the Kentucky Mounted Infantry, while in the act of hurling his tomahawk at the already wounded horseman.

After this victory, which was followed up by a short pursuit of the remaining British, Harrison returned with his army to Detroit and finally withdrew to Lower Sandusky (now Fremont)

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