

Presqu Isle, near Brighton, when the vessel sank with the judge, prisoner and witnesses, and all on board perished.

By the 8th of March the first block-house was finished and Col. Head had his few belongings packed ready for moving, when an Indian on snow shoes appeared with a despatch from headquarters at York with instructions to return forthwith to Kempenfeldt Bay. The Indian messenger had letters for the others as well and the "whole establishment was to be broken up." The Canadians set to work at once, improving the remnant of time in making hand-sleighs to carry the baggage. Accordingly, on the morning of the 10th of March the whole party, led by Col. Head, Commodore Collier, Capt. Payne and Lieut. Evans, followed by the axemen and shipwrights, began their retreat, leaving behind the embryo naval station with its single block-house and three or four other half-finished log structures surrounded by a small clearing on the hillside. It must have been an exceedingly droll procession as they scampered away, breaking and overturning each other's sleighs in their frolics. The company walked over the ice towards the mouth of the bay, following the track by which they came, to the first way-station below Wyebridge, where they stayed over night. In choosing the roundabout way up the Yeo River instead of the newly-cut military trail which was shorter and more direct leading straight from the "establishment," they wished primarily to avail themselves of the advantages of ice and snow for the sleighs, but it also furnished a scathing comment on the state of this road through the wilderness as a desirable highway. Next day the party arrived at Kempenfeldt Bay, Col. Head and the officers occupying the same house in which the former had found shelter on the previous trip, the axemen and shipwrights being quartered in a house recently built for storing supplies for the navy. Here Col. Head enjoyed the luxury of a "hammock," but had the misfortune to fall out of it, cutting his head and demolishing a gold watch. On the 15th of March letters were received from headquarters, with orders for Commodore Collier and Lieut. Evans with the shipwrights to proceed to York, which they accordingly did by leaving the same day over the ice. Col. Head was left with his Canadian axemen busying themselves with building a dock, a new house at the head of Kempenfeldt Bay for storing supplies, and clearing the portage to Willow Creek preparatory to erecting a block-house there, a Fort near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, and various other duties, until the 16th June,