

The means by which the commandant at Detroit became acquainted with this disaster has been already detailed.

The posts of Green Bay and Sault Ste. Marie did not share the fate of Michilimackinac. During the previous winter the fort at Sault Ste. Marie had been partially destroyed by an accidental fire, and was therefore abandoned, the garrison withdrawing to Michilimackinac, where many of them perished in the massacre.

Green Bay first received an English garrison in 1761. The force consisted of seventeen men, commanded by Lieutenant Govell. Though few in number, their duties were important. In the neighborhood were several powerful Indian tribes, the Menomonies, Winnebagoes, Sacs and Foxes. West of the Mississippi were the Dakotahs, whose strength was estimated at 30,000 fighting men, and who styled all the others their dogs and slaves. As representative of the British Government Lieutenant Govell was obliged to conciliate all these, a task in which he succeeded to a considerable extent. On the 15th of June an Ottawa Indian brought him the following letter from Capt. Etherington:—

“Michilimackinac, June 11, 1763.

“Dear Sir,—This place was taken by surprise on the 4th inst. by the Chippewas (Ojibwas), at which time Lieut. Jamit and twenty (fifteen) more were killed and all the rest taken prisoners; but our good friends, the Ottawas, have taken Lieut. Lesley, me, and eleven men out of their hands, and promised to restore us again. You'll, therefore, on receipt of this, which I send by a canoe of Ottawas, set out with all your garrison, and what English traders you have with you, and come with the Indian which gives you this, who will conduct you safe to me. You must be sure to follow the instructions you receive from the bearer of this, as you are by no means to come to this post before you see me at the village twenty miles from this. I must once more beg you'll lose no time in coming to join me; at the same time be very careful and always be on your guard. I long much to see you, and am, dear sir, your most humble servant,
“GEO. ETHERINGTON.

“J. Govell, Royal Americans.”

On receipt of this letter Govell summoned the Menomonies to a council, told them what the Ojibwas had done, said he and his soldiers were going to Michilimackinac to restore order, and during his absence he requested they would take charge of the fort. Great numbers of the Winnebagoes, Sacs, and Foxes arriving, he addressed them in the same words. Presents were given, when it soon appeared the greater part were friendly to the English, though a few were inclined to threaten hostility; but the scale was turned in favor of Govell by the arrival of a Dakotah chief, who told the assembled warriors that he had been sent to warn them against hostilities with the English; that they would punish the Ojibwas for their bad conduct; and bade them beware of the vengeance of his nation. No good reason can be given for this timely interference,

except hatred of the Ottawas. Several of the Green Bay tribes were at enmity with the Ojibwas, and volunteered to escort the English, who embarked on the 21st June in several batteaux, accompanied by ninety warriors in canoes. On the 30th they reached the village of L'Arbre Croche. The Ottawas came down to the beach to salute them with a discharge of guns, and they were presented with the pipe of peace. Captain Etherington and Lieutenant Leslie, with their men, were detained as prisoners, and it was thought the Ottawas intended to disarm Govell's party also; but he gave out that he would resist any such attempt, and, being backed by his own allies, could not be safely meddled with. Several councils were held, and it was determined to set the prisoners free, the hostile tribes being in a state of great alarm from the want of success attending their measures, the threats of the Dakotah, and the defection of the Green Bay tribes. Therefore, on the 18th of July the whole of the English, escorted by a fleet of Indian canoes, crossed Lake Huron, reached the mouth of French River, passed through Lake Nipissingue and over the height of land between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence, descended the Matawan and Ottawa Rivers, and reached Montreal in safety on the 30th of August.

Those parties of English soldiers rescued by the courage and address of an officer whose name has been hardly mentioned by the historians of those times, and whose after fate was obscure (Lieutenant Govell), but who nevertheless deserved well of his country, passed in their adventurous voyage to Montreal through a waste and howling wilderness, little suspecting that the capital of the chief colony of the great British empire would be built on the banks of the unknown *Grande Riviere* along whose stream they floated peacefully to their destination, or that the lapse of a dozen years would leave that empire no other foothold in America than those recently acquired French provinces which had been conquered at such a cost.

The conduct of the Indian traders and backwoods settlers has been already adverted to, but during this dangerous period they succeeded by their turbulent villainy in casting all their former bad deeds into the shade. Virginia formed an honourable exception; ever ready to provide means of defence, her militia had gradually acquired habits of discipline and control which made them formidable in the field; and any effectual help rendered in defence of the frontiers came from that province. Pennsylvania, governed by a Quaker assembly upon those Utopian theoretic principles characteristic of that sect, allowed her frontier settlers to be slaughtered without mercy, and would take no precautions for their safety. Professing to appeal to human reason as the guide of man's actions, they left him without the restraints of

human law; and the usual consequences followed—a more villanous, disorderly, turbulent or disgraceful set never afflicted any community than the Pennsylvania frontiersmen. It has been seen how they refused to assist Bouquet; their subsequent conduct was such as to lessen any sympathy which their merited misfortunes might have excited. Though Pennsylvania was acquired by treaty, the Quaker proprietors had no objection to its extension by force or fraud, provided it did not entail expenditure of money. Encouraging all the sectaries and fanatics of Europe to settle within its limits, it gave the locations on the borders without any restraining law forbidding trespass on Indian soil. What happened could have been easily foreseen. The lands of the aborigines were absorbed piece by piece. Neither law nor justice could be obtained against the aggressors, the savages undertook to right themselves and vindicate their undoubted claims to the land off which they had been driven by force; hence the frontiers of the Quaker State suffered more severely and deservedly than any other.

Virginia had provided forts and block-houses along her frontier, and to those her settlers repaired on the appearance of danger. Having places of security they could devise modes of aggression; and on this occasion 1,000 men were put under arms, divided into two battalions, who rendered good service during the war. No such precautions were taken in Pennsylvania. When danger threatened the frontier settlers were thrown back on the older settlements, entirely destitute, adding to the people's burdens, and unwelcome guests. Repeated remonstrances having failed to awaken the assembly of that province to the sufferings of the people, a few of the more daring and desperate banded themselves together, and turned their arms, not against the common foe, but a band of Indians converted by the Moravians, who were ruthlessly murdered because they would offer no resistance. Another party was put into Lancaster jail for safety. The ruffians forced this asylum in open daylight and murdered its inmates. The impunity with which those deeds were allowed to be perpetrated encouraged them still further, and they actually attempted to march into Philadelphia; but this was too much for the Quakers of the city of brotherly love, and they speedily organised an armed force so formidable from its numbers as to strike terror into the cowardly hounds who threatened to assail them.

Early in July Governor Hamilton had called the Assembly together, and, representing the miseries of the unprotected frontiers, counselled that measures should be taken to remedy the existing evils and prevent their recurrence. Very reluctantly they recognized the necessity for defensive measures by passing a bill for raising and