

a twelve pounder was brought forward and unlimbered in the road on the crest of the ridge, within two hundred yards of the mill, with the intention of battering in its gable end. In this position the men working the gun were freely exposed alike to rifle fire and rockets from that building. About the same time the garrison was reinforced by the flank companies of the 13th, which arrived from Isle aux Noix at the mouth of Lacolle in two small gunboats, and made their way along that river to the mill without much difficulty. The gunboats then attempted to aid in the defence by shelling the woods, but without any material effect. Sometime afterwards a howitzer was brought up by the Americans, but both their guns were so badly served that during an intermittent cannonade lasting more than two hours only four shots struck the mill, and but one penetrated the wall. The inefficiency of their fire was mainly due to the exposed position of their guns and the steady rifle fire maintained upon them. Captain McPherson, a gallant young artillery officer, who was acting as secretary to General Wilkinson, had volunteered to direct their fire. Being slightly wounded in the chin, he bandaged this hurt and remained at his post until his thigh was shattered by a musket ball. Lieut. Larrabee, next in command, was badly wounded; and of eighteen men working the twelve pounder only two remained. The guns ceased firing. Hancock then directed Captain Ellard with the flank companies of the 13th to rush out upon the battery, in the hope of disabling the guns before the infantry could come to their support. These companies formed under cover of the bank and advanced most gallantly in line directly upon the guns, but before they could reach them they were assailed by such a storm of musketry in front and from both flanks that it was marvellous that any of them escaped unhurt. Captains Ellard and Henry and Ensign Whiteford were wounded, and many men killed or disabled; and all who were able to get away retreated in great disorder. Captain McPherson, in his evidence before a court martial, stated that the "conduct of the enemy that day was distinguished by desperate bravery. As an instance one company made a charge on our artillery and at the same instance received its fire and that of two brigades of infantry."

After some delay, the guns were manned by infantry soldiers, and resumed fire with no better effect than before; although, as the ammunition of the garrison was nearly exhausted, scarcely any reply could