

contents; yet there was an active enmity in the vicinage, which had gratification in stirring up the savages by going into their villages, explaining the horrors of this hellish libel insomuch that his life was thought in danger beyond the Posts, and he decided to seek protection of the Commander-in-Chief at Quebec."

Here then we have Judge Powell's own statement of what took place and out of which the "gentleman of veracity from Canada" or the enterprising editor of *The United States Gazette* evolved the somewhat startling news item with which we opened our narrative.

At Quebec, Judge Powell met John Graves Simcoe, the new Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, who had arrived the previous year and who was awaiting a quorum of his new Executive Council. Simcoe had not been idle for the past few months. He had been learning all he could of Upper Canada and of her principal men. He had visited Montreal. He at once told Judge Powell that the authors of the libel were two officers under the Judge's official protection who had accompanied him from Montreal. Simcoe introduced him to the Duke of Kent, the Commander of the Forces, and to Sir Alured Clarke, the acting Governor-General, who assured him of their confidence. It soon became apparent that the matter traced back to some trouble at Montreal of some years standing, something in connection with the Indian department "and that threats had then been held out of future revenge."

Judge Powell presided at a session of the Court of Common Pleas at L'Assomption (Sandwich) on March, 1792, and on the 3rd of September of the same year presided at the Court of Oyer and Terminer for the District of Hesse. It will be seen therefore that, after clearing himself of the serious charge, he returned to his duties in the western part of the Province apparently with enlarged powers of administration. Simcoe left Quebec for Upper Canada on the 7th of June, 1792. The Judge therefore must have made his hurried trip to Quebec at some time during the months of April and May.

And now let us have the story back of it all which links Detroit and Montreal.

There lived in North Carolina at the outbreak of the revolutionary troubles a well-to-do planter named La Force. He was of French descent, but of British sympathies. Being disturbed and harassed by his neighbours on account of his loyalty, he collected his flocks and herds and all his slaves, and with wife and family struck out westward into the wilderness to seek a new home. Having proceeded beyond the settled area, a day of rest and thanksgiving was decided upon. An ox was shot and while the sons prepared the carcass, the parents retired to their tent to sleep. The work was completed and the sons picked up their rifles to put them away. A tent cord caught the trigger of one of