

(six and three pounders,) he began his march along the margin of the river; while the savages, by a parallel movement through a wood, covered his left flank. Between eleven and twelve o'clock, the head of the column presented itself at the tanyards below the town, (about five hundred yards from the fort,) when the American officer, commanding an exterior battery of twenty-four pounders charged with grape shot, believing the moment had arrived when hostilities could no longer be postponed with propriety, directed his men to point their guns and commence a fire; but the order was immediately countermanded, and another issued in its stead, forbidding every kind of hostility, and menacing with immediate death all who should dare to infract it.¹

The strength, position, and supplies of the American army, at this critical moment, have been frequently stated, and even judicially established. The morning reports to the Adjutant-General, made its effective force one thousand and sixty, exclusive of three hundred Michigan militia, and as many Ohio volunteers, detached under McArthur. Of this force, four hundred effectives (infantry and artillerists of the line) occupied the fort—a work of regular form and great solidity; surrounded by a wide and deep ditch, strongly fraised and palisadoed, and sustained by an exterior battery of two twenty-four pounders.² Three hundred Michigan militia, ready to combat for

¹ McAfee's History.

² Hall's trial; testimony of Captain Dalliba, General Taylor, and Major Ross.