

CHAPTER XX.

MUCH has been said by some authors about *anarchy* and *insubordination* existing at the Erie station during the winter of 1813-14. This is erroneous. There was some little clashing between the Perry and Elliot adherents, but not in the slightest degree interfering with subordination.

As the spring opened, things were more quiet; the danger of the enemy crossing upon the ice having now passed away. Elliot, in order to obtain information of the enemy's movements upon the Canada shore, as soon as the ice in the lake would permit, ordered the "Ohio," under the command of Mr. Dobbins, to cruise between Long Point and Erie, to intercept their supplies moving west by water. In the discharge of this duty Mr. Dobbins frequently landed spies upon the Canada shore, and arranged to take them off at certain times. The adventures of one of these spies were truly marvelous. The name is not at hand, but think it was *Prentice*. He had lived in Canada and claimed that he had been *oppressed*, for which he was seeking revenge. His object was, if possible, to capture the mails, and thereby obtain valuable information. He never succeeded in getting a mail which was brought to Erie, though he frequently made captures which he took through the lines to our forces near Fort Erie.

Early in April Elliot received letters from General Harrison and Commodore Chauncey, stating that Mackinaw was short of provisions, and quite defenseless. Chauncey then ordered Elliot to fit out the squadron and endeavor to recapture it.