

Perils of a Supply-train.

Loud Complaints against Hull.

Cheering Orders.

A grievous Disappointment.

continued to the Ecorces, but the Indians, restrained by the prudent Tecumtha, only followed about half that distance.¹ The mail was lost, and passed into the hands of the British authorities, by which most valuable information concerning the weakness and disaffection of Hull's army was made manifest, for the officers and soldiers had written freely to their friends at home on the subject.² The detachment also lost seventeen killed and several wounded, who were left behind.³

Hull was greatly disconcerted by the news of Van Horne's repulse and loss. His colonels urged the employment of immediate and efficient measures for retrieval, and begged him to send a sufficient force to overcome any obstacles likely to be met between Detroit and the Raisin. Brush was in danger, and the army would soon need the supplies in his charge. The way between the army and Ohio must be kept open, and no time was to be lost in securing these important ends. "Send five hundred men at once," they said, "to escort Brush to Detroit." "I can spare only one hundred men," was the general's disheartening reply. These were too few, and the enterprise was abandoned for the moment. Brush was left to the mercy of Tecumtha and his savage followers, and the needed supplies for the army were placed in imminent peril. Indignation and alarm stirred the blood of the officers.

The mutinous spirit, of which Hull afterward wrote, was now vehemently exhibited. There was plain and loud talk at head-quarters—talk which startled the general, and caused him to call a council of field officers,⁴ the result of which was an agreement to march immediately upon Malden. Orders were issued for the medical and surgical departments to prepare for active duties in the field; for the securing of boats at Detroit; for leaving the convalescents under an officer at Sandwich, with means for crossing the river, if desired; for a raft of timber and planks for a bridge to be floated down the river; for drawing, on the morning of the 8th, by the whole army, cooked rations for three days; and for the return of "all artificers, and all men on any kind of extra duty," to their regiments immediately.

This order diffused joy throughout the little army. They believed that the hour for energetic action had come. Every man was busy in preparation; and a long summer's day was drawing to a close, when another order from the commanding general cast a cloud of disappointment over the camp more sombre than the curtain of night that speedily fell upon it. It was an order for the army to *recross the river to Detroit!*—an order to abandon Canada, and leave to the vengeance of their own government the inhabitants who, confiding in Hull's promises of protection, had refused to take up arms in defense of their invaded territory. This order was in consequence of intelligence just received that a considerable force of British regulars, militia, and Indians were coming to attack the Americans in the rear, under General Brock.

But Canada was not to be wholly abandoned. Major Denny, with one hundred and thirty convalescents and a corps of artillerymen, under Lieutenant Anderson, was left "to hold possession of that part of Canada, and afford all possible protection to the well-disposed inhabitants." A strong house, belonging to one Gowris, had been stockaded, and called Fort Gowris. In this, and in a long stone building yet standing in Sandwich,⁴ which the American soldiers had used as barracks, the con-

¹ For his gallantry in this campaign, Major Van Horne, while a prisoner on parole, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Twenty-sixth Regular Infantry, and was transferred to the Nineteenth in 1814. He was disbanded in June, 1815.

² The battle-ground was about five miles below the present village of Trenton, in Michigan.

³ Among the killed were Captains William McCullough, Robert Gilchrist, Henry Ulery, and Jacob Boerstler; Lieutenant Jacob Pentz, and Surgeons Edward Roby and Andrew Allison.—M'Atfee, page 74. Hull's Letter to the Secretary of War, dated Sandwich, August 7, 1812.

⁴ This building was erected for a school in 1807 or 1808. It was in a dilapidated state when I sketched it in the autumn of 1860. It occupies an open space in the village of Sandwich. Several poor families occupied it. The place known as Spring Wells is opposite, and indicated in our little sketch by the buildings with tall chimneys, from which columns of smoke are rising. These compose the copper smelting-works at Spring Wells. A long wharf on the Sand-

Horne at Brownstown.

those treasures and him a detachment of Ohio colonels compliance. At red Major Thomas the Raisin with and afford a safe with alacrity. He encamped that on their arms. The fog veiled the and sultry. Four watch for the end in bloom, they although fell from each the spot, the ph. His country defenders, and the

er this sad occurrence gentlemen who had with Major Van informed by him ish, near Browns-come accustomed cied security, his the road passed a ford. On the re corn-fields and ts of thorn bush-d near the creek lumns were com-to approach each on account of the vness of the way. s they reached its n, and were en-upon the open d around the vil-ear the house of Brown, a heavy only fifty yards' ce, was opened them from both y a large body of is who lay in an-the thickets and oods. The attack onfusion. Appre-ely ordered a re-Indians pursued, eating Americans eys. The retreat