

To all those who are at all conversant with Canadian history, the name of Pontiac, the great head of the Indian race during his period, is familiar. He formed a federation of the various tribes, threatening extermination to the British posts, nine in number, which had been established along the western frontier subsequent to the cession of the Canadas to England by France.

His method of procedure was to invest the various forts one after another with his warriors, cut off all communication with the others, and leaving no hope of succor to offer terms of surrender which were never kept.

One by one seven of these outposts fell, their defenders being victims to their confidence in the honor of their tricky opponent, until only two, Detroit and Michilimackinac, or Mackinaw, as it is now called, remained. All the cunning that Pontiac was capable of was used in his effort to obtain possession of the last of these strongholds, and the following plan was finally resorted to:

During a temporary truce, a game of lacrosse was arranged for, to take place, simultaneously, on the common or clearing on which the forts rested. The guns of the warriors had been cut short and given to their squaws, who were spectators of the game, and who concealed the shortened weapons beneath the folds of their blankets. Gradually the centre of action in the game was worked nearer and nearer to the entrance to the fort, when suddenly with a dexterous twirl the ball was flung over the ramparts into the fort, and permission asked to recover it. This granted, the Indians dashed forward with a fierce yell for the accomplishment of their treacherous purpose, but with very different results in each case.

At Detroit, Pontiac and his followers had scarcely crossed the bridge when, to their rage and disappointment, they beheld the brave garrison, composed principally of the remnant of the brave 42nd Highlanders, fully prepared, and under arms, for their reception. Their design had been made known to the Governor by an Indian woman who owed a debt of gratitude to his family.