

light to nine o'clock in the morning, when St Clair's army was reduced to one third of the number he brought to the field. He then ordered a sally to be made to gain the main road; when this was obtained they gave way on it, and it now became a perfect rout. Had the Indians understood his intention was to retreat, they would have prevented it, and neither he himself, nor perhaps any one of his army would have escaped. Another circumstance favourable to him was, that the Indians after their retreat, attended more to plundering the camp than to the pursuit; yet a few of them are said to have followed the chase for ten miles. General St Clair's army had six pieces of cannon and two howitzers, yet not a shot was fired out of either; but they were intended for a different purpose, which the court of St James's was apprised of not many months thereafter\*.

\* In the baggage taken by the Indians after that action, papers were found, which they immediately sent to the commanding officer at Detroit. Some of these bore General St Clair's private instructions from Congress, that how soon he beat the Indians, he should attack Fort Detroit, for which purpose alone the cannon and howitzers were sent. Though this did not publicly transpire while I was in that neighbourhood, yet it privately did, and there is little reason to doubt its authenticity, as the cannon were not so much as once charged, and useless if they should, against Indians sculking in a wood behind trees and logs.