



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

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THE REVIEW.

POMPEII.

BY MARY A. M'IVER.

Lo! the veil is rent away,
Open to the gaze of day
Lies the home of mystery
By the blue and laughing sea.

Terrible, yet strangely fair,
Phantoms ever linger there;
Dreams from some dim world unknown,
Flit o'er faces shaped in stone.

Stern Vestivias unknown
On the marble ruins down,
Can her wrath harm such as these,
Wan ghosts of the centuries?

No! and yet there was a time
When her shadow stalked sublime
Past the doors of living men
Fear and Silence entered then.

And an awful Presence stood
Near the evil and the good,
With an arm upheld to strike
That doomed City's sons alike.

When, oh, when, Neapolis,
Wilt thou see a scene like this?
Not till Earth herself expire
In the fierce embrace of Fire.

Ottawa, August, 1868.

THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1754-64.

CHAPTER XVIII.

As Gladwyn happened to have two Indians in his power at the Fort the peril of those officers' situation was considerably diminished; they were conducted to the house of M. Meloche, near Parents Creek, and well treated. During the conference the commandant had managed to get a small supply of provisions from the friendly Canadians in the neighborhood. Father Pothier, a Jesuit priest, had hitherto prevented half the Wyandot tribe from engaging in hostilities, but Pontiac, the morning after the detention of the officers, crossed over to their village and gave them the choice either to join the confederacy or be attacked by the whole, they were obliged to comply.

A new disposition was now made of the Indian forces, outlying detachments were stationed to intercept arrivals by land or water, skirmishers were thrown forward almost to the palisades to shoot down every officer or soldier in sight; and on the twelfth of May another attack in force was made in

which the firing continued from morning till night.

In a Council of War held in the Fort on that evening the commandant stood alone in his opinion as to its defence, they rest of the officers proposed to embark on the schooners and sail for Niagara—their condition was desperate, for on the shortest possible allowance they had scarce provisions for three weeks, within which time there was little hope of succor, the houses were of wood chiefly thatched with straw and could easily be set on fire with burning missiles—but their chief apprehension was that during a general onset the enemy would cut or burn their way through the pickets—a mode of attack to which resistance would be unavailing, but on this latter particular they were reassured by an old Canadian who had spent half his life amongst the Indians and who assured the commandant that there was nothing to fear from that mode of attack as the Indians would not venture a man in it. Animated by the spirit of their commanding officers parties of Volunteer sallied from time to time to burn outbuildings, cut down orchard trees, and level fences until the ground was clear and the enemy had no cover left from whence to fire. The two vessels in the River sweeping the northern and southern curtains of the works with their fire, deterred the Indians from approaching those points and give material aid to the garrison—still the pertinacious savages would crawl close to the palisade and shoot arrows tipped with burning tow upon the roofs of the houses, but cisterns and tanks of water was provided for such an emergency and those attempts proved abortive; yet after all the place must have been abandoned were it not for M. Francois Baby, his brother, M. Navane, Gouin, and others, principally the first named who supplied the garrison with cattle, hogs and other provisions long before the Indians became aware of the practice.

Meantime the besiegers began to suffer from scarcity of food, having intended to effect their object by a *coup de main*, they had made no provision for such lengthened operations as the skill of Major Gladwyn and the

valor of the garrison rendered necessary—they began to exercise the right of armed bodies everywhere, and commenced a series of irregular levies of provisions on the Canadian *habitans* which was wasted with characteristic improvidence. The latter unable any longer to endure such recklessness called a meeting at the house of M. Meloche and deputed fifteen of their principal men to wait on Pontiac and complain of his followers' conduct; he heard their remonstrance in respectful silence, returned a soothing and favorable answer and promised redress. In order to effect a proper distribution of provisions he visited the houses of all the principal inhabitants, and having ascertained the amount of provisions each could furnish, he appointed a vain and busy *habitan* named Quillerez as his Commissary General, issuing promissory notes for the provisions received drawn on birch bark and signed with the figure of an Otter the *totem* of his tribe, and it is asserted that every one of them were faithfully redeemed. This circumstance of the *totem* would suggest the origin of coat *armour* or armorial bearings—the *totem* being exclusively appropriated by the Chieftain as representative of the tribe.

While Detroit was thus pressed the Commander-in-chief at New York remained in ignorance of the peril of the forest garrisons.

Early in May Lieut. Cuyler left Niagara, and on the 13th of that month embarked from Fort Schlosser at the head of the Falls with 96 men and a plentiful supply of provisions and ammunition for Detroit. Day after day this detachment coasted the northern shore of Lake Erie without seeing either friends or foes, when on the 25th he landed on Point Pelee, not far from the mouth of the Detroit river; the boats were drawn upon the beach and the men prepared to encamp. A man and a boy went a short distance to gather firewood when an Indian leaped out of the bush and tomahawked the boy, the man ran into camp and gave the alarm. Cuyler formed his men in a semi circle in front of the boats; he had scarcely done so when the

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