

*Extract from a letter written at Detroit,
September 26, 1813.*

“ Our fleet upon the lake, sailed about 20 days ago from our port into that of the Americans, after a close action of three hours and a half, without one making their escape ; the consequence of which is we have lost all hopes of ever regaining the command of the lake ; and our army, consisting of about 550 regulars and 2500 wild Indians, are now upon the retreat to Thames river, although contrary to the wishes of the Indians ; who have declared they will not budge one inch further, and remind us of our general having promised to conquer or leave their bones with them ; as we are now completely in the savages’ power, we are obliged, in a great measure, to act as they think proper. The celebrated chief Tecumseh, dined with me last Friday, and assured me his Indians were determined to give battle the moment the Americans approach. Our general, should he act contrary to their wishes, may repent his rash opposition ; however prudent he may conceive a retreat at such an awful crisis. These savages have no mercy.—The tomahawk and scalping knife decides immediately the wretch who falls in their hands, and many dread the *war whoop* may sound in our ears, if we act contrary to their ideas, which are as wild as themselves. We have spread a net which may catch us. *I hate these savage barbarians.* You cannot