

dially, having been twice fired at and wounded. The traders in various districts were barbarously murdered, and a series of petty annoyances commenced which had the effect of putting the garrison of Fort Pitt on its guard. It consisted of 330 soldiers, traders, and backwoodsmen, commanded by Captain Ecuyer, an officer of experience and bravery. At length, on the 22nd of June, a demonstration in force was made by the Indians, who here, as at Detroit, opened fire on every side at once from a long distance. The garrison replied by a fire of howitzers, the shells from which, bursting amongst the Indians, greatly amazed them. On the evening of the 26th a soldier named Gray, belonging to the garrison of Presqu' Isle, came in with the report of the loss of that post after a gallant defence, which has been already detailed. He stated that all the garrison was murdered except himself and another man; but in this he was mistaken, as they had all been carried to Detroit. In his flight he had passed the spots where Le Boeuf and Venango had stood, but both had been burned to the ground, and he thought the garrisons were murdered; but the disaster did not prove so fatal. On the day of his arrival Ensign Price, the officer commanding at Le Boeuf, was seen approaching, followed by a part of his garrison of seven half famished soldiers. His statement was, that on the evening of the 18th his post, which consisted of one blockhouse, was surrounded by a great multitude of Indians, who set it on fire in spite of every effort to prevent it, guarding the entrance with great care to prevent the escape of the garrison; but Price and his soldiers hewed an opening through the timbers of the rear of the blockhouse, and escaped into the woods under cover of the smoke. They marched the whole of that night, and next day came to the ruins of Venango, consisting of piles of glowing embers, among which lay the half-consumed bodies of its garrison. Not a man remained alive to tell its fate; but long after Sir William Johnson elicited the whole particulars from an Indian who was present at its destruction. A body of Senecas gained admittance under pretence of friendship, closed the gates and butchered the garrison except the commanding officer, Lieut. Gordon, whom they tortured over a slow fire for several successive nights, till he expired. They then burnt the place to the ground. Fort Ligonier had been also assailed, but the Indians were beaten off after a hard day's fighting.

At Fort Pitt every preparation possible was made for the preservation of the place. The works had been damaged by the spring floods; but the commandant, aided by the zeal of the garrison, soon put it in a state of defence. On 27th July the Indians made a lodgment under the river banks, and kept up an incessant fire on the garrison. Those Indians were undoubtedly the inventors of

the celebrated "rifle pit" mode of skirmishing, as the historians of those times state "they made holes in which they intrenched themselves, and fired on every person who appeared above the parapet."

When the first news of hostilities reached the Commander in Chief, orders were at once sent to Colonel Henry Bouquet, who commanded at Philadelphia, to assemble as large a force as possible, and cross the Alleghanies with a convoy of provisions and ammunition for the relief of Fort Pitt. With all his efforts only 500 men could be collected, chiefly of the 42nd Highland regiment, which had suffered less than the other corps in the Havana expedition. Having sent agents to the frontier to collect horses, waggons, and supplies, Bouquet followed with his troops, and reached Carlisle on the 1st July. Here he found the place crowded with people flying from Indian vengeance, the whole surviving population of the frontier settlements, in a state of starvation. Humane as he was brave, Bouquet served out to those famished creatures the provision collected for the relief of Fort Pitt, and, after restoring order, set about replenishing his exhausted magazines from the settlements to the eastward. On the 19th of July he marched out of Carlisle, being obliged to carry sixty invalid soldiers in waggons, as they were unable to march. At Shipperbury, twenty miles from Carlisle, he found a strong multitude who had fled from the tomahawk of the Indian; and although, both here and at Carlisle, he would gladly have accepted the services of those frontiersmen as guides and soldiers, he could find none willing to risk life and limb in defence of their own rights, or to punish a treacherous foe.

In the course of this review of the military operations of this war, it has been necessary to notice the romance of the American historians and others, who have written of the bravery, conduct, and endurance of the backwoodsmen. Throughout the pages of those same histories not one fact is adduced in support of the assertions so recklessly made, nor an instance recorded where they played the part of soldiers and men in defence of their homes. On the contrary, if there is a piece of needless cruelty, cowardly treachery, lawlessness or turbulence in which the settlers were engaged, the backwoodsmen always took the chief part, first carefully ascertaining that the parties to whom they were opposed were numerically weaker. They ruined Braddock's expedition, nearly destroyed Forbes's, would not join Bouquet, and acted throughout the part of cheats, thieves, and cowards. There may be romance in backwoods life, but it is in theory alone, and the frontier imaginations of people who entirely ignore facts.

By the best advices received from the westward it appeared that Fort Ligonier was in imminent danger. Bouquet deter-

mined to relieve it. He detached thirty men for that purpose, with instructions to avoid the main road and approach it by unfrequented tracks known only to the Indian hunters, two of whom were found to act as guides. The magazines it contained of clothing, arms, ammunition and provisions, made it necessary to relieve it at all hazards. Using every precaution to avoid discovery, the party reached the vicinity of the fort in safety, and, although they were fired upon, they succeeded in entering without the loss of a man.

On the 25th Bouquet's little army reached Fort Bedford, his approach compelling the Indians to raise the leaguer which they had maintained for several weeks. The commandant, Capt. Overry, could gain no intelligence from Fort Pitt, as every messenger had been killed.

On the 28th July the march was resumed with all due precaution, and on the 2nd of August the troops reached Fort Ligonier on the western slope of the Alleghanies, the Indians about the place vanishing at their approach. As no information could be obtained of the number, disposition, or objects of the enemy, and as the most dangerous and difficult defiles of the mountains had yet to be passed, Bouquet resolved to leave behind the oxen and waggons which formed the most cumbrous part of his convoy, and with a quantity of flour and ammunition on pack-horses, push for Fort Pitt by forced marches. He resumed his march on the 4th August, with 350 pack-horses and a few cattle, and at nightfall encamped within a few miles of Fort Ligonier. At less than a day's march were the dangerous defiles of Turtle Creek, mentioned in the narrative of Braddock's expedition—a stream flowing at the bottom of a deep valley, flanked by steep declivities, along the foot of which the road then ran for some distance. Fearing that an ambuscade would be placed there, he determined to march next day as far as Busby Run, a small stream entering Turtle Creek, encamp till night, and by a forced march cross Turtle Creek under cover of darkness.

Early on the morning of the 5th of August the tents were struck and the troops began their march. By one o'clock they had advanced seventeen miles, and the guides assured them they were within half a mile of Busby Run, their proposed resting place, when suddenly the report of rifles from the front showed that the Indians had attacked in force. The two companies in front were ordered forward at once to close the line and support the advanced guard, while the convoy were halted. As the fire had become so heavy and well sustained as to warrant the idea of a serious affair, the troops were formed into line and a general charge ordered. They drove their assailants before them, but at the same time the convoy was assailed in the rear, while the savages dispersed in front only to assemble