

as well as British) had entirely abandoned the neighborhood of the Rapids, I left the command of camp Meigs with gen. Clay and came here last night. It is with the greatest satisfaction, I inform you, sir, that I have every reason to believe, that the loss of the Kentucky troops in killed on the north side of the river does not exceed fifty. On the 10th and 11th inst. I caused the ground which was the scene of the action and its environs to be carefully examined, and after the most diligent search 45 bodies only of our men were discovered—amongst them was the leader of the detachment col. Dudley. No other officer of note fell in the action. I have strong reason to believe that a considerable number of the Kentuckians effected their retreat up the river to Fort Winchester. General Proctor did not furnish me with a return of the prisoners in his possession, although repeatedly promised. His retreat was as precipitate as it could properly be, leaving a number of cannon ball, a new elegant sling-carriage for cannon, and other valuable articles. The night before his departure two persons that were employed in the British gun-boats (Americans by birth) deserted to us. The information they gave me was very interesting—they say that the Indians, of which there were from 1600 to 2000, left the British the day before their departure in a high state of dissatisfaction, from the great loss which they had sustained in the several engagements of the 5th, and the failure of the British in accomplishing their promise of taking the post at the Rapids. From the account given by these men, my opinion is confirmed of the great superiority of the enemy which were defeated by our troops in the two sallies made on the 5th inst. That led by colonel Miller did not exceed 350 men, and it is very certain that they defeated 200 British regulars, 150 militia, and 4 or 500 Indians. That American regulars (although they were raw recruits) and such men as compose the Pittsburg, Penn. and Petersburg, Va. volunteers, should behave well, is not to be wondered at—but that a company of militia should maintain its ground against four times its numbers, as did capt. Sebres of the Kentucky, is truly astonishing. These brave fellows were at length however entirely surrounded by Indians, and would have been entirely cut off, but for the gallantry of lieut. Gwynne of the 19th regiment, who, with part of captain Elliott's company, charged the enemy and released the Kentuckians. I inclose you a list of the killed and wounded during the whole siege. It is considerably larger than I had supposed it would be when I last wrote to you—but it is satisfactory to know that they did not bleed uselessly—but in the course of successful exertions. The return does not embrace those who fell on the N. W. side of the Miami.

You will also receive herewith a monthly return of the troops at camp Meigs for the last month; the communication with the other posts being cut off, the returns were not received. A copy of gen. Clay's report to me of the manner of his executing my order for the attack on the enemies batteries, is likewise forwarded, by which it will be seen that my intentions were perfectly understood, and the great facility with which they might have been executed is apparent to every individual who witnessed the scene. Indeed the cannon might have been spiked, the carriages cut to pieces, the magazine destroyed and the retreat effected to the boats without the loss of a man, as none were killed in taking the batteries, so complete was the surprize.

An extensive open plain intervenes between the river and the hill upon which the batteries of the enemy were placed; this plain was raked by four of our eighteen pounders, a twelve and a six. The enemy,

even before their guns were spiked, could not have brought one to bear on it. So perfectly secured was their retreat that 150 men who came off effected it without loss, and brought off some of the wounded, one of them upon the backs of his comrades. The Indians followed them to the woods, but dared not enter into the plain.

I am unable to form a correct estimate of the enemy's force. The prisoners varied much in their accounts; those who made them least, stated the regulars at 550 and militia at 800; but the numbers of Indians were beyond comparison greater than have ever been brought into the field before; numbers arrived after the siege commenced. I have caused their camps on the south-east side of the river to be particularly examined, and the general opinion is, that there could not have been fewer on that side than 1000 or 1200; they were indeed the efficient force of the enemy.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 14th, 18th and 28th ult. and 4th instant.

I am sorry to inform you that major Stoddard died the night before I left the Rapids, of a lock-jaw, produced by a slight wound from a fragment of a shell which struck him on the thigh. Several have died in this way from their great and unavoidable exposure to the cold; but perhaps there never were so many instances of desperate wounds being likely to do well.

The gallant captain Bradford will recover.

I shall go from here to Upper Sandusky, and shall take my station at Delaware or Franklinton until the troops are assembled. General Clay who commands at the Rapids, is a man of capacity and entirely to be relied on.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your humble servant,

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

The hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG,

Secretary at War.

Return of the killed and wounded in the siege of Camp Meigs, and the several sorties of the 5th inst.

U. S. Artillery	1 killed.	90 wounded,	aggregate 129
U. S. Infantry	39 do.	do.	20
U. S. Dragoons	3 do.	17 do.	total 72
Kentucky milit.	30 do.	42 do.	do. 72
Ohio militia	3 do.	8 do.	do. 11
12 month's vol.	2 do.	29 do.	do. 31
Detachment of Infantry of the U. S.	3 do.	3 do.	do. 6

Total killed 81 total wounded 139 total killed & wounded 266

REMARKS—Majs. Stoddard and Hunkill—the former died of his wounds, the latter slightly wounded.

Sixty-four of the above were killed in the sorties, and one hundred and twenty-four wounded: the balance, eighty-one, killed and wounded within the fortified camp.

J. O. FALLON,

Acting Assist. Adj. General.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Clay to Gen. Harrison.

CAMP AT FORT MEIGS, May, 1813.

Sir—On the 5th inst. about 8 o'clock, A. M. descending the Miami of the lake about midway the Rapids, with 1200 of the Kentucky troops in 18 flat bottomed boats, I was met by captain Hamilton and a subaltern, who delivered me (as he said) the orders of major general Harrison to the following effect:

"You must detach about 800 men from your brigade, who will land at a point I will shew about one or one and half miles above the Fort, and I will conduct them to the British batteries on the left bank of the river. They must take possession of the enemy's cannon, spike them, cut down the carriages, and return to their boats."

Observing that the British force at their large batteries was inconsiderable, but that their main force

was at the old garrison, about one and a half miles below, on the same side of the river; that the Indian forces were chiefly on the right bank of the river. "The balance of the men, under your command, must land on the right bank, opposite the first landing, and will fight their way through the Indians to the Fort," observing that the route thus to be taken would be shewn by a subaltern officer there, in company with capt. Hamilton, who would land the Perogues at the point on the right bank, at which the boats would land.

The order of descending the river in boats was the same as the order of march in line of battle in solid column, each officer taking position according to his rank. Col. Dudley, the eldest colonel, led the van, and in this order the river had been descended. As soon as capt. Hamilton had delivered these orders, being in the thirteenth boat from the front, I directed him to proceed immediately to col. Dudley and order him to take the men in the 12 front boats, and execute general Harrison's orders on the left bank of the river; and post his (capt. Hamilton's) subaltern on the right bank to conduct myself with the men in the six rear boats to the Fort. I ordered the 5 boats in the rear to fall in a line and follow me. High winds and the rapidity of the current drove 4 of the rear boats ashore in the attempt to follow on according to order, where they remained a short time, sufficient however to detain them half or 3 quarters of a mile in the rear. To land according to order, I kept close along the right bank until opposite col. Dudley's landing. There I found no guide left to conduct me to the Fort as capt. Hamilton had promised. I then made an attempt to cross the river and join col. Dudley, but from the rapid current on the falls I was unable to land on the point with him. Being nearly half way across the river, and the waves running too high to risk the boat then driving down the current sidewise—veered about the boat and rowed the best way we could to save our boats. My attempt to cross the river to col. Dudley, occasioned all the boats (I presume in the rear of me) and which were then out of hailing distance, to cross over and land with col. Dudley. Having been defeated in a landing on the left, we then endeavored to effect one on the right, even without a guide: But before a landing could be effected we received a brisk fire from the enemy on shore, which was returned and kept up on both sides. And I was in this unavoidable situation compelled to make to Fort Meigs with no other force than about 50 men on board (the other boats being still in the rear) and to receive the enemy's fire until we arrived under the protection of the Fort. Col. Boswell's command (except the men in my boat) having landed to join col. Dudley, were, as I have been informed, ordered by captain Hamilton immediately to embark and land on the right hand shore about a mile above the Fort, and prepare to fight his way through to the garrison.

The colonel embarked, landed as he conceived at the proper point, pursuant to captain Hamilton's order, and was forming his men in order of battle, when he was met by captain Shaw, and ordered to march into the garrison at open order, the safest route.

When my own boat landed we were met by two men who took charge of the boat as we understood to bring her under the protection of the fort batteries. Believing our baggage to be thus made safe, we forbade our servants to carry any portion of it, but loaded them with cannon balls which they bore to the fort. Our baggage was however taken by the Indians in a very short time after we left the boat. Upon receiving the orders of captain Hamilton, I asked if he had

brought spikes to spike the enemy's cannon. To which he replied he had plenty.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GREEN CLAY, Brig. Gen.

His excellency major-general HARRISON.

P. S. Captain Hamilton on delivering the orders of general Harrison, observed that the project of landing and marching a portion of the troops on the right bank was to draw the attention of the Indians, and by thus engaging them afford an opportunity to the garrison to make a sally, and by a circuitous route surprize and carry the batteries and cannon of the enemy below the fort on the right bank.

GREEN CLAY, B. G.

A true copy. G. CROGHAN, Aid-de-camp.

Extract of a letter from major-general Dearborn to the secretary of war, dated Niagara, May 3.

"As nearly as I have been able to ascertain, the loss of the enemy in the late affair of York amounted to one hundred killed, two hundred prisoners and three hundred wounded. I have not been able to ascertain precisely the amount of the militia put on their parole—I presume it could not be less than five hundred. There was an immense depot of naval and military stores. York was a magazine for Niagara, Detroit, &c. and notwithstanding the immense amount which was destroyed by them, we found more than we could bring off. Gen. Sheaffe's baggage and papers fell into my hands; the papers are a valuable acquisition. A scabbard was found in the executive and legislative council chamber, suspended near the speaker's chair in company with the mace, &c."

Extract of a letter from a field officer in the force which landed at York, to the department of war.

"The column of attack consisted of the 6th, 15th, 16th and 21st regiments of infantry, and a detachment of the light and heavy artillery. Major Forsyth's corps of riflemen, and Lieut. col. McClure's corps of volunteers acted on the flanks. There was a long piece of woods to go through, which offered many obstructions to our heavy ordnance. As was expected, we were there annoyed on our flanks by a part of the British and Indians, with a six pounder and two howitzers. One of the enemy's batteries accidentally blew up, by which they lost fifty men of the 8th regiment. A part of our force was detached from our column, as it came into the open ground, who carried the second battery by storm. The troops were halted a few minutes to bring up the heavy artillery to play on the block-house. General Sheaffe, despairing of holding the town, ordered fire to be put to the magazine, in which there were five hundred barrels of powder, many cart loads of stone, and an immense quantity of iron, shells and shot. The explosion was tremendous. The column was raked from front to rear. General Pike and his three aids, and 250 officers and men were killed or wounded in the column. Notwithstanding this calamity and the discomfiture that might be expected to follow it, the troops gave three cheers, instantly formed the column and marched on towards the town. Gen. Sheaffe fled and left his papers and baggage behind him. About sixty regulars accompanied him, leaving their wounded in every farm-house. They acknowledged the loss of three hundred killed and wounded. Their force, regulars and militia, consisted of 1000 men. We took between four and five hundred prisoners."

Extract of a letter from Stephen H. Moore, captain of the Baltimore Volunteers, to his brother in this city, dated Niagara, 5th May, 1813.

"I last wrote you from the Harbor, stating that I was then about to embark with my company, toge-