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THE LIFE

OF

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WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON,

THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE

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THE PRESIDENCY.

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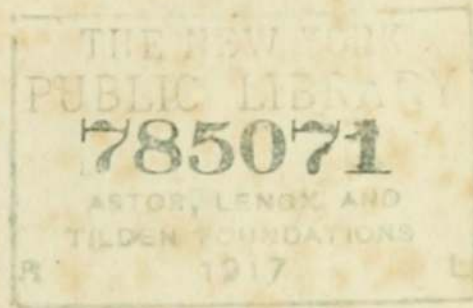
*Wm. H. Harrison*

*AN*

1. Name

AT

EVIL MIST



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TO THE  
PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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THE recent nomination of William Henry Harrison for the Presidency, by one of the most numerous, dignified, patriotic, and influential conventions ever assembled on such an occasion, has united the various elements of opposition to the present unprincipled and corrupt administration, as promptly and unani- mously as the best friends of their country could wish. Even those who were warmly predisposed in favour of some other individual, have, since this nomination, given up their personal predilections, with a magnanimity which true patriotism only could have roused, and have joined frankly and cordially in support of a candidate, through whose well-earned popularity, they hope and confidently expect to defeat and shake off this administration, which has so long been weighing, like an oppressive incubus, on the best inter- ests of the people—an administration which came into power when our country was in a state of unexampled prosperity, and in a few years of mismanagement and flagitious misrule, has shorn it of its welfare, and plunged it into distress and difficulties, deeply and grievously felt by every class in the community, and daily becoming more burdensome and intolerable to the active and industrious part of our population—to the farmer, the me- chanic, the merchant, and the tradesman.

But the people of this country will no longer consent to be held in such bondage. Born freemen, they are wearied of being ruled with a rod of iron. The selfish, narrow-minded, and ruinous po- licy, the notorious corruption, and the glaring misdeeds of the

Jan. 12/16

present administration, have, at length, roused their just indignation, and they are rising, in their majesty, to rebuke their unprincipled rulers—to teach them, that, though elected to high office, they are, in truth, but the servants of the people, chosen to administer to the great interests of their country, and not to their own private interests, and that they shall not, with impunity, abuse the great trust confided to them. As faithless and dishonest servants, they are destined to be discharged from the high stations they have so unworthily occupied, and the history of their defeat and disgrace will prove a timely and salutary warning to all iniquitous politicians, who may hereafter be elected to office, and who may likewise dare to abuse the confidence reposed in them, with the futile hope to escape detection and just punishment by falsehood, chicanery, and low cunning. After a long night of misrule, a bright and glorious day is once more dawning, and the success of the people's cause, to which, with William Henry Harrison as our candidate for the Presidency, we may look forward with the fairest promise of certainty, will again restore our government to its republican purity, and our country to its happiest days of prosperity. Our farmers and merchants shall no longer brood over their fallen fortunes, nor our honest mechanics and hardy labourers starve or be driven to desperation, by the want of employment—but with the restoration of public confidence in our rulers, the tide of success will again flow in upon our active population, and the busy hum of smiling and prospering industry will again be heard where now all is silent, save the heart-rending cry of poverty and distress.

To those who know General Harrison and are familiar with his past life, nothing need be said of the many and important services he has rendered to his country, nor of his eminent qualifications for the office to which he has been nominated. But the retired life he has led since his return from his mission to Colombia, has, in a measure, withdrawn him from public observation; and has more especially prevented his being properly known and appreciated by the younger portion of our community, who have but recently arrived at manhood and taken their station in the republican ranks of their fellow-citizens. It is true, that, in addition to the highly honourable mention made of General Har-



risson in the history of our country for nearly forty years of our national existence, publications have, at different periods, issued from the press, giving a detailed narrative of the private life as well as of the public services of this patriotic veteran and eminent statesman—but these, owing to their volume or the form in which they appeared, have necessarily had but a limited circulation. We therefore believe it an acceptable service to those who are not familiar with the life of William Henry Harrison, to place before them the following brief sketch of his biography and public services. We think that, when a man has been selected by his fellow-citizens as a suitable candidate for any important office in their gift, it is no more than common justice to all parties, that they should be supplied with some authentic information respecting his past life. It is right and proper that they should know what services he has rendered to his country, what public stations he has occupied, and with what skill, fidelity, and uprightness he has discharged the duties of those offices with which he has been entrusted—in order that furnished with this information, they may be enabled to form a fair estimate of his abilities, and of his usefulness and integrity in his future career. We therefore offer our readers this honest outline of plain facts gathered from the most authentic sources. Should any desire more particular information, or wish for detailed evidence of the historic truth of this outline, we refer them to our public documents and state papers connected with the events here recorded, and to every impartial history of the wars and negotiations on our north-western frontier, from the adoption of the federal constitution till the close of the last war.



## LIFE OF

# WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

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WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was born in Virginia, on the ninth day of February, 1773, at Berkley, on the James River, about twenty-five miles below Richmond. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was one of the earliest and most conspicuous patriots of the Revolution. He was a very distinguished member of the Continental Congress, during the years 1774, 1775, and 1776, and was Chairman of the Committee of the whole House when the Declaration of Independence was finally agreed to, and his signature is annexed to that celebrated document. He afterwards rendered important services to his country, by his energetic and judicious measures as governor of his native state, Virginia. This eminent patriot died in the year 1791, leaving his son, William Henry, under the guardianship of his friend, the distinguished financier of our Revolution, Robert Morris.

Young Harrison was educated at Hampden Sydney College; and, by the advice of his friends, turned his attention to the study of medicine. But about the period when he had completed his education, soon after the death of his father, the increased and barbarous hostilities of the Indians on our north-western borders, began to excite a feeling of indignation throughout the whole country. In this general excitement our young student participated so warmly, that he resolved to relinquish his professional pursuits, and join the army destined to the defence of the Ohio frontier. The service was then neither popular nor inviting, but on the contrary was exceedingly toilsome and fraught with great danger and hardships; and nothing but high courage and elevated motives, could have induced him to form this resolve at so gloomy a period. His determination was warmly opposed, too, by his prudent guardian; but it was cordially approved by one

whom he thought entitled to even more influence—by *General Washington*, who had been his father's intimate friend, and who was, at that time, President of the United States.

The war in our western country was then assuming a very alarming aspect. The Indian tribes, who had been in the service of Great Britain, during our Revolutionary struggle, had not yet laid down the tomahawk; but still persisted in their ruthless aggressions, and in the almost daily commission of their savage atrocities. From the year 1783, when Great Britain acknowledged our independence, and war with the mother country ceased, up to the year 1791, it was estimated that more than fifteen hundred of our hardy borderers had fallen victims to the rifle and scalping knife of their savage foes. Our northwestern frontier presented an appalling scene of rapine, conflagration, and wanton destruction of life and property. Many of our border settlements had been crushed in their infancy, and all had been retarded in their growth. Expedition after expedition, fitted out to oppose them, had met with the most disheartening losses; and finally a gallant army under Brigadier General Harmer, which had been sent expressly to chastise these savages, after destroying some of their towns, had been signally defeated by them, and almost annihilated. Of the few experienced officers who escaped from Harmer's defeat, nearly all, worn out with the fatigues of a service so harassing, and shrinking from a warfare of so dangerous and barbarous a nature, had resigned their commissions; and a general feeling of dismay began to pervade the whole of our exposed frontier.

Such was the gloomy aspect of affairs, when the ardent and generous patriotism of young Harrison prompted him to give up the comforts and luxuries that surrounded him at home, and enter his country's service in defence of his fellow-citizens.

In the autumn of the year 1791, he received the commission of an ensign in the United States artillery, from the hands of General Washington, whose warm approval had greatly cheered him in his design. He hastened immediately to join his regiment, which was then stationed at Fort Washington, and arrived at that post a few days after the unfortunate defeat of General St. Clair, near the Miami villages, by the confederated Indians under

the command of Meshecunnaqua, the Little Turtle, a celebrated Miami warrior, and Buckongelas, head chief of the Delawares. This disastrous defeat, in which St. Clair's army was destroyed, with the loss of nearly a thousand men, killed or taken prisoners, left the whole of our northwestern frontier exposed to the ravages of a merciless enemy, and added greatly to the general consternation before existing.

In this state of things, our government saw the necessity of adopting immediate and efficient means to put an end to this savage conflict. Another army was promptly raised, and the command given to General Anthony Wayne of Pennsylvania, a gallant and skilful officer, who had earned a brilliant reputation in the Revolutionary War. The United States Legion, as Wayne's army was called in the new organization, assembled at Pittsburg, in the summer of 1792; and in the ensuing month of November, they left that place, and went into winter quarters, at Legionville, on the Ohio, 22 miles below Pittsburg.

About this time, Harrison was promoted to a lieutenancy, and shortly after, he joined Wayne's Legion. His fearlessness and energy, with his strict attention to discipline, soon attracted the notice of his commander-in-chief, himself a bold and daring soldier and a rigid disciplinarian, and General Wayne, not long after his arrival, selected him as one of his aides-de-camp.

We have entered thus minutely into this detail, because we wish to point out at how early an age, and in what trying times, young Harrison was thought worthy of honourable distinction, and how soon, too, he attracted the attention and especial notice of a man and a soldier like Wayne, whose well-known independence of character was such, that no influence save that of intrinsic merit was ever with him of any avail, and whose daring and almost reckless intrepidity had won him, in our Revolutionary War, the singular appellation of "Mad Anthony."

Lieutenant Harrison acted as aid to General Wayne during the whole of the ensuing campaigns; and his bravery and gallant conduct throughout were such, that he was repeatedly officially noticed in terms of the highest encomium. The war was conducted by General Wayne with all the cool daring of a veteran

soldier, and the sagacity of a prudent general—until finally, on the 20th of August, 1794, he fought the bloody and desperate battle of the Maumee Rapids, in which the confederated Indians, with their allies, were totally defeated. Their heavy losses in this battle so disheartened the Indians, that, a few months after, they entered into negotiations for a treaty of peace, giving hostages for their good faith—and thus, with the close of this war, were extinguished what may be considered the last embers of our revolutionary struggle. In his despatch to the Secretary of War, after this decisive victory, General Wayne, in mentioning those whose good conduct made them conspicuous on this occasion, says—“My faithful and gallant aide-de-camp, *Lieutenant Harrison*, rendered the most essential service, by communicating my orders in every direction, and by his conduct and bravery exciting the troops to press for victory.”

Soon after this battle, Lieutenant Harrison received the commission of a captain, and was placed in command of Fort Washington, which occupied the present site of the city of Cincinnati, and was then the most important station on the Western frontier. While in command of Fort Washington, he married the daughter of John Cleves Symmes, the celebrated founder of the Miami settlements, a lady who commands the esteem and respect of all who know her. He remained in the army till the close of the year 1797, when, as there was no longer an opportunity to serve his country in the field, he resigned his commission, to commence his career of civil services. He was almost immediately appointed secretary, and, *ex-officio*, lieutenant-governor of the Northwestern Territory; which then embraced the whole extent of our country lying northwest of the Ohio river—thus, by a just award, receiving his first civil appointment in that part of our country which he had first perilled his life to defend.

While in this station, he entered so warmly into the interests of the people, and his intelligence and the kindness and urbanity of his manners rendered him so popular, that, when, in the following year, the Northwestern Territory entered the second grade of government, according to the system which then prevailed, and the inhabitants became entitled to representation in the councils

of the nation, they almost unanimously elected him their first delegate to Congress. Mr. Harrison was, at this time, about twenty-six years of age.

He took his seat in the House of Representatives, at the first session of the sixth Congress, in December, 1799. There were then in Congress some of the ablest and most enlightened statesmen, and some of the most eloquent men, our country has ever produced. Yet in this severe ordeal, the abilities and manly energies of Mr. Harrison soon commanded universal respect. At this period, the all-engrossing subject in the West, and one in which our whole country had a deep interest, was the sale of our public lands. The manner in which these lands had been hitherto disposed of, had created great dissatisfaction among the people. They had been sold only in large tracts; the smallest of which included, at least, four thousand acres; and as the minimum price was at that time two dollars per acre, a great majority of the new settlers were utterly precluded from becoming possessors of land by an original purchase from the government. Our hardy yeomanry, with limited pecuniary means, were thus entirely shut out from all chance of competition with wealthy speculators and grasping monopolists,—the poorer emigrants were becoming disheartened at the chilling prospects before them, and the settlement of the new country was greatly retarded. Fully aware of the impolicy and injustice of this state of things, and true to the trust confided to him, Mr. Harrison's earliest legislative efforts were made to overthrow this exclusive and pernicious system. He aroused the attention of Congress to the consideration of this important subject, and evinced so intimate an acquaintance with the facts and business details connected with it, that he was appointed chairman of a committee raised to examine into and report on the existing mode of disposing of the public lands; the only instance, it is believed, in which that honour has been conferred on a territorial delegate. After a proper investigation, he presented a report, accompanied by a bill, the principal object of which was to reduce the size of the tracts of public land offered for sale, to such a smaller number of acres as would place them within the reach of actual settlers. This masterly report, which was the joint production of himself and Mr. Gallatin, together

with the great ability and eloquence with which he defended his bill from the powerful opposition it encountered in the House, gained Mr. Harrison a reputation rarely attained by so young a statesman. The bill was carried triumphantly in the House, and finally, after some amendments, passed the Senate. The result was, that the public lands, instead of being offered only in large tracts, of which four thousand acres was the smallest size, were now to be sold in alternate sections and half sections—the former containing 640, and the latter 320 acres each. The point gained was of immense importance, since, from the low price of these lands, and the small amount of purchase money required to be paid, they were now, with the aid of industry, within the reach of nearly all the poorer emigrants and actual settlers, who felt a natural desire to own the fee simple of their homes, and of the lands they subdued from the wilderness. Thousands of the hardy and industrious farmers of our Northern and Middle States, and many of the poorer planters of the South, availed themselves of the fair field which was now opened for emigration and enterprise; and we may justly consider this happy result, which Mr. Harrison was so instrumental in producing, as one of the leading causes of the rapid settlement and prosperity of our Western country.

The justice and true policy of reducing the size of the tracts of public lands offered for sale having been once admitted, subsequent legislators have found it not only a politic, but a popular measure, and have followed up the principle thus introduced by Mr. Harrison, until now our public lands may be bought in tracts of but eighty acres each, and at the price of only one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre—whereas, but for the first blow at the old system struck by Mr. Harrison, and but for the wise and just principle first introduced by him, that exclusive system might perhaps still have continued—in which case we feel assured of being within bounds in asserting that the great valley of the Mississippi, the mighty empire of the West, would not, at this day, have numbered one half the population, nor boasted a moiety of the wealth it now contains.

In the year 1800, the Northwestern Territory was divided. That part of the Old Territory, included within the present



boundaries of Ohio and Michigan, retained its former name ; and the immense extent of country northwest of this, was erected into a separate government, and received the name of Indiana. Soon after this division had taken place, Mr. Harrison resigned his seat in Congress, and was appointed governor of the new Territory. This appointment gave great satisfaction to the people of Indiana, with whom the patriotic exertions of Mr. Harrison had rendered him deservedly popular ; and it was, at the same time, the strongest evidence of the confidence, with which the General Government relied upon his integrity, prudence, and capacity for civil government.

The vast extent of this new Territory included what now constitutes the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, and the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa. But the small population it then contained was thinly scattered through a vast wilderness, and only three white settlements of any note existed within its boundaries. One of these was at the seat of government, Vincennes, a small town originally built by the French, and beautifully and advantageously situated on the banks of the Wabash ; the second, known as Clark's Grant, was at the Falls of the Ohio, nearly opposite Louisville, about one hundred miles from Vincennes ; and the third was the French settlement on the banks of the Mississippi, near St. Louis, and more than two hundred miles distant from the seat of government. The communication between these remote points was, at all times, difficult and toilsome, and often attended with great danger. There existed no practicable roads, and nearly all the intermediate country was occupied by the Indians, or overrun by their hunting-parties. Most of these savage tribes, though professing to be friendly, were restless and dissatisfied ; and their leading chiefs still nursed a moody hope of revenge for the mortifying defeat they had sustained, six years before, at the battle of the Maumee Rapids. Artful and treacherous, numerous, warlike, and thirsting for plunder, they kept this remote frontier in continual excitement and alarm. The angry feelings of our hardy borderers were frequently roused by some robbery or atrocious aggression committed by the more evil-disposed among their savage neighbours, and quarrels often ensued, which threatened the peace of the whole community.

Such was the existing state of things in Indiana Territory, when Mr. Harrison was appointed to the administration of its government. As governor of a frontier territory so peculiarly situated, Mr. Harrison was invested with civil powers of the most important nature, as well as with military authority. Besides the ordinary powers which he held, *ex officio*, as governor, he had the sole power of dividing the district into counties and townships, and was appointed the general superintendent of Indian affairs. He had likewise the unusual power of conferring on a numerous class of individuals, a legal title to large grants of land, on which they before held merely an equitable claim. His sole signature was sufficient, without any other formality, to give a valid title to these extensive and valuable tracts of land. No other formality or publicity was required, and whatever secret collusion might have existed between the claimant and the governor, the title would still have been unquestionable before any legal tribunal. Possessed of this immense power, without check or limitation, opportunities were continually before him of accumulating a princely fortune; but the scrupulous sense of honour, which has always characterized Mr. Harrison, would never permit him to speculate in lands over which he had any control. During the whole of the time that he held this important trust, he never availed himself of his peculiar advantages to advance his own interests either directly or indirectly; and it is a fact worthy of particular note, that, even to the present time, he has never owned a single acre of land, the title to which, originally, emanated from himself as the representative of the government. No shadow of suspicion has ever doubted his honour, his honesty or disinterestedness, and not a murmur ever accused him of partiality, or even of unnecessary delay, in the performance of this delicate duty. We allude to this to show, that the integrity of Mr. Harrison is well-trying and practical; and that it has always shone with the purest lustre when assailed by the strongest temptations.

In 1803, Mr. Jefferson appointed Governor Harrison sole "commissioner to enter into any treaties which might be necessary with any Indian tribes, northwest of the Ohio, and within the territory of the United States, on the subject of their bounda-

ries or lands." By virtue of this authority, in the following year, Harrison succeeded in negotiating a treaty with the Sacs and Foxes, and besides the amicable relations established with those tribes, he obtained the cession of an extensive tract of country, including the whole of the valuable region between the river Illinois and the Mississippi, with a northern boundary, stretching from the head of Fox river to a point on the Wisconsin, thirty-six miles above its mouth. Besides this, during the subsequent course of his administration, Harrison effected *thirteen important treaties* with the different tribes, on the most advantageous terms; and obtained from them, at various times, the cession of large tracts of land, amounting, in all, to more than *sixty millions of acres*, and embracing a large portion of the richest region in our country.

In their frequent intercourse with Governor Harrison, the Indians had learned to respect his undaunted firmness, and were, at the same time, conciliated by his kindness of manner and considerate forbearance. This, with his intimate knowledge of the Indian character, is the true secret of the remarkable success that has uniformly attended every treaty he has attempted to negotiate.

The various and arduous duties of the governor of Indiana, required for this office, a man of very superior abilities and qualifications, and of a rare temperament—one possessed of stern integrity and prudent moderation, with wisdom in the exercise of the extensive powers entrusted to him, accompanied by the most unwavering firmness. Such a man Governor Harrison, in the long course of his administration, fully proved himself to be. The plainest evidence that can be presented to those who are not familiar with the history of Indiana, during this eventful period, of the peculiar fitness of Governor Harrison for this important station, of the confidence reposed in him, and of the great popularity he attained while in the exercise of so delicate a trust, is the unquestionable fact, that, for thirteen years, at every successive expiration of his term of office, he was re-appointed, at the earnest solicitation of the people of the Territory, and with the public expression of the most flattering approbation on the part of our chief Executive. And this too, notwithstanding the entire change which had taken place within that time in the ruling politics of

the country—his first appointment having been made by Mr. Adams, his second and third by Mr. Jefferson, and his fourth by Mr. Madison. The following extract from the resolution, unanimously passed by the House of Representatives of Indiana, in the year 1809, requesting the re-appointment of Governor Harrison, will show the estimate which a long acquaintance had taught them of his worth:—"They (the House of Representatives) cannot forbear recommending to, and requesting of, the President and Senate, most earnestly in their own names, and in the names of their constituents, the re-appointment of their present governor, William Henry Harrison,—because he possesses the good wishes and affection of a great majority of his fellow-citizens;—because they believe him sincerely attached to the Union, the prosperity of the United States, and the administration of its government;—because they believe him in a superior degree capable of promoting the interest of our Territory, from long experience and laborious attention to its concerns, from his influence over the Indians, and wise and disinterested management of that department; and because they have confidence in his virtues, talents, and republicanism."

If necessary, we might fill a goodly volume with extracts from public documents of a similar nature; but what stronger proof than this could we have of the popularity of Governor Harrison, and of the entire confidence with which the people relied on his experience, his integrity, and his ability as a statesman?

In 1805, the Territory of Indiana was advanced to the second grade of government. The citizens were allowed to elect a Territorial House of Assembly, by which ten persons were nominated, out of whom the president appointed five as a Legislative Council to complete the Territorial Legislature. This measure deprived Governor Harrison of much power and great patronage, since it threw into the hands of the people the election of many officers who were before appointed by the Executive—but always a ready advocate for the republican rights of suffrage and self-government, he was true to his principles even when against his interest, and he strenuously urged this change of government.

In the following year, the celebrated Indian Chief of the Shawnee tribe, Tecumthe, *the Crouching Panther*, and his notorious

twin brother, Ol-li-wa-chi-ca, *the Open Door*, (or as some interpret it, *the Loud Voice*), generally known as *the Prophet*, began to create disturbances on the frontiers of Indiana. Tecumthe was a bold and skilful warrior, sagacious in council, and formidable in battle—an active, daring, energetic man, but one who preferred tact and secret management to open violence. The Prophet was a shrewd impostor; cunning, artful, and treacherous. He was no warrior, but an accomplished and persuasive orator, who announced himself as a *medicine man* or magician, possessed of vast and miraculous powers, and as having been specially sent by the Great Spirit to reform the condition of the red people, and to restore them to their former prosperity.

These crafty intriguers were leagued together by the tie of mutual interests and a common hatred to the whites; and their object was to form a general combination of all the Northwestern and Southwestern tribes of Indians, for the purpose of preventing the whites from extending any new settlements west of those already existing; and with the vain hope, too, that by a simultaneous attack on the whole of our extensive, thinly inhabited, and ill-defended western frontier, they might force back the whites from the valley of the Mississippi, and regain a portion of their lost hunting-grounds. But the designs of these intriguing spirits were soon known to Governor Harrison; and, aware of his dangerous and critical position, his prudent forbearance and wise policy enabled him, for several years, to hold his savage neighbours in check.

In September, 1809, Governor Harrison held a council at Fort Wayne, and negotiated a treaty with the Miamies, Delawares, Potawatomes, and Kickapoos, by which he succeeded in purchasing from those tribes an extensive tract of country on both sides of the Wabash, and extending up that river more than sixty miles above Vincennes. The tribes who owned these lands were paid for them by certain annuities which they considered a satisfactory equivalent.

Tecumthe was absent when this treaty was made, and the Prophet not feeling himself interested, had not opposed it; but on the return of Tecumthe, some months after, both he and his brother expressed great dissatisfaction, and even threatened to put to

death all those chiefs who had signed the treaty. Hearing this, and anxious too to ascertain their intentions from themselves if possible, Governor Harrison despatched messengers to invite them both to Vincennes, and to assure them that any claims they might have to these lands were not affected by the treaty; but that if they would come to Vincennes and exhibit their pretensions, and they should be found to be valid, the lands would be given up or an ample compensation made for them. Tecumthe came, without his brother—and though the governor, having no confidence in his good faith, had requested him not to bring with him more than thirty warriors, he came with four hundred, completely armed. The governor held a council on the 12th of August, 1810, at which Tecumthe and forty of these warriors were present. The governor was attended by the judges of the supreme court, several officers of the army, Winnemack, a friendly chief, and a few unarmed citizens. A sergeant's guard of twelve men was likewise placed near him, but as the day was exceedingly sultry, and they were exposed to the sun, the governor, with his characteristic humanity, directed them to remove to a shaded spot at some distance.

Tecumthe addressed this council with a speech, in which he openly avowed the designs of himself and his brother. He declared it to be their intention to form a coalition of all the red men, to prevent the whites from extending their settlements farther west—and to establish the principle that the Indian lands belonged in common to all the tribes, and could not be sold without their united consent. He again avowed their intention to put to death all the chiefs who had signed the treaty at Fort Wayne, yet, with singular inconsistency, he at the same time denied all intention to make war, and declared that all those who had given such information to the governor were liars. This was aimed particularly at Winnemack, from whom the governor had received a timely notice of the designs of Tecumthe and his brother.

Governor Harrison replied to Tecumthe in a mild and conciliatory tone, explaining the treaty at Fort Wayne, and clearly proving that all the chiefs whose tribes had any claims upon the lands ceded at this time to the United States, were present at the

treaty and had voluntarily signed it—and that they had sold these lands for an annuity which they considered a sufficient compensation. The interpreter to the Shawnees explained the governor's speech to the warriors of that tribe, but when the interpreter to the Potawatamies was about to begin, Tecumthe interrupted him in a rude and insulting manner, using the most vehement language and the most violent gesticulation, and loudly declaring that all the governor had said was false, and that he and the United States had cheated and imposed upon the Indians. As he uttered this, his warriors sprung to their feet and began to brandish their tomahawks and war-clubs, their eyes all fiercely turned upon the governor. Harrison rose immediately and drew his sword. The friendly chief Winnemack cocked a pistol with which he was armed, and some of the officers in attendance drew their weapons and stood on the defensive. During this critical moment not a word was spoken, until the guard came running up and were about to fire on the Indians, when the governor, with singular coolness and presence of mind, restrained them. He then turned to Tecumthe and calmly but authoritatively told him that "he was a bad man—that he would hold no further talk with him—and that he must now return to his camp, and take his departure from the settlements without delay." The council was immediately broken up and Tecumthe and his warriors, awed by the coolness and intrepidity of the governor, withdrew in silence.

The next morning, Tecumthe, finding that he had to deal with a man of firmness and undaunted bravery, whom he could neither intimidate by his audacious violence nor disconcert by his cunning manœuvres, solicited another interview with the governor, and apologized for the improprieties he had committed at the council the day before.

Still anxious to conciliate this haughty savage, the governor afterwards paid him a visit at his own camp, with no other attendant than the interpreter. Tecumthe received him with courtesy and much attention; his uniform kindness and inflexible firmness having won the respect of the rude warrior—but he still persisted in rigidly adhering to the policy he had avowed at the council on the preceding day.

Meanwhile his brother was using every exertion to advance

their mutual object. His reputation as a prophet with his cunning pretensions to supernatural powers, gave him a strong hold on the superstitions of his red brethren, and enabled him to attach several of the tribes warmly to his interests. Governor Harrison alludes to this in his message to the Legislature of Indiana, in the ensuing winter of 1810, from which the following is an extract :

“Presenting as we do,” said Governor Harrison, “a very extended frontier to numerous and warlike tribes of the aborigines, the state of our relations with them must always form an important and interesting feature in our local politics. It is with regret that I have to inform you, that the harmony and good understanding which it is so much our interest to cultivate with these our neighbours, have, for some time past, experienced a considerable interruption, and that we have indeed been threatened with hostilities, by a combination formed under the auspices of a bold adventurer, who pretended to act under the immediate inspiration of the Deity. His character as a prophet would not, however, have given him any very dangerous influence, if he had not been assisted by the intrigues and advice of foreign agents, and other disaffected persons, who have for years omitted no opportunity of counteracting the measures of the government with regard to the Indians, and filling their naturally jealous minds with suspicions of the justice and integrity of our views towards them.”

In the course of this address, the whole of which we regret that our limits will not permit us to give, Governor Harrison alludes to some idle complaints and malicious calumnies, which had been spread abroad by certain disaffected persons within the Territory—the totally unfounded nature of which was soon made apparent in a court of justice. There are in every community, individuals who are incapable of appreciating or are unwilling to admit the existence of disinterested and patriotic motives of action—and who, if they are too dull or perverse to comprehend the wise policy and strict justice of any public measure, are inclined by the whisperings of their own hearts to attribute that measure to the promptings of base or unworthy motives. It is not a matter of surprise, therefore, that some such were found in the Territory over which Governor Harrison presided.



Among these was one M'Intosh, who openly asserted that Governor Harrison had cheated the Indians in the treaty at Fort Wayne, by which the United States had the year before obtained so large a cession of lands from the Miamies, Delawares, Pottowatomies and Kickapoos. As this calumny was industriously circulated, Governor Harrison thought it due both to his own character and to that of the general government that the charge should be fully and judicially investigated while the subject was still fresh and the testimony in relation to the treaty at Fort Wayne was still within reach. An action for slander was therefore brought against M'Intosh, in the Supreme Court of the Territory, and every possible measure was adopted to obtain a fair and impartial decision. To insure this, two of the judges left the bench during the trial—one being a friend of the governor, and the other of the defendant; leaving the case to be adjudicated by the third judge, who had but recently arrived in the Territory and was but slightly acquainted with either of the parties. All the facts connected with the negotiation of the treaty of Fort Wayne were critically inquired into, and the defendant was allowed every opportunity to examine all the persons engaged in the Indian Department, or who were acquainted with the circumstances attendant upon the making of this treaty. But the more this subject was inquired into, the more clearly did it manifest the strict honour and integrity of Governor Harrison; until, at length, convinced of this, the counsel of M'Intosh abandoned all plea of justification, and asked only for a mitigation of damages. The jury returned a verdict of four thousand dollars against the defendant; a heavy verdict in a new country, where money is always scarce, and damages given by juries in such cases are generally very small. A large amount of the defendant's property was sold the following year to satisfy this judgment, and was bought in by the agent of the governor while he himself was absent in command of the army. *Two-thirds of this property Governor Harrison afterwards returned to M'Intosh, and the remainder he distributed among the orphan children of some of his gallant fellow-citizens who fell in battle during the last war!* Such acts need no comment—while magnanimity, disinterestedness, and generosity are prized among men, the tongue of praise even can scarcely do them justice.

In the following year, 1811, from petty aggressions, the Indians proceeded to more open violence, and acts of decided hostility. The war-whoop was again heard yelling within the limits of the Territory, and every day brought fresh accounts of the perpetration of those ruthless deeds of depredation and murder, which always give the first intimation of a savage war. From motives of humanity as well as policy, Governor Harrison had always endeavoured to avoid a war with the Indians; but when this result became unavoidable, he promptly adopted the most energetic measures within his limited resources, to place the Territory in a posture of defence. At his own earnest request, and at the solicitation of the people, the President, soon after, directed him to march with an armed force towards the principal place of rendezvous of the hostile Indians, the Prophet's town, on the Wabash, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe—where this crafty impostor had gathered together a body of more than a thousand fierce warriors, ready to obey his will.

Governor Harrison immediately assembled five hundred of the militia and volunteers of Indiana. These, with a regiment of United States infantry, consisting of three hundred and fifty men, commanded by Colonel Boyd, and a small body of volunteers from Kentucky, constituted his whole available force—amounting in all to scarcely nine hundred effective men. As soon as he had disciplined these troops, and trained both the regulars and militia in the Indian mode of warfare, he took up his line of march towards the Prophet's town.

He left Fort Harrison, on the Wabash, about sixty miles above Vincennes, on the 28th of October, 1811. Profiting by his own early experience, and the remembered example of his old friend and commander, General Wayne, his march through a singularly wild country to Tippecanoe, was conducted with so much skill and prudence, that he avoided all danger of ambuscade or surprise from the savage foe. On the 6th of November, the army arrived within five or six miles of the Prophet's town. According to the instructions he had received from the President, Governor Harrison immediately sent in a flag of truce, to endeavour to open an amicable negotiation with the hostile Indians. To this overture, the Prophet returned a pacific but deceitful reply—professing, all

the while, the most amicable intentions, and agreeing to meet the governor the next day in council, with his chiefs, to settle definitely the terms of peace. But Harrison knew too well the treachery of his artful antagonist, to allow himself to be deceived by his specious professions, or lulled into any fancied security. He carefully selected the most eligible and defensible position for his encampment, and posted his troops in a hollow square, with his cavalry drawn up in the rear of the front line. He then ordered his men to lie upon their arms all night, that they might be in constant readiness to repel any sudden attack; and he surrounded the entire camp with a chain of sentinels, placed at such a distance as to give timely notice of the approach of the enemy, yet not so remote as to prevent their retreat in case they should be overpowered by numbers. The officers were likewise ordered to sleep with their clothes and accoutrements on, and their arms by their sides; and the governor himself was ready to mount his horse at a moment's warning.

The night passed without any interruption; and the governor and his aids rose at a quarter before four o'clock, and were sitting in conversation about the fire. The moon had risen, but afforded little light, in consequence of being overshadowed by heavy clouds, from which occasionally fell a drizzling rain. At this moment the attack commenced. The treacherous Indians had stealthily crept up near our sentries, with the intention of rushing upon them and killing them before they could give the alarm. But fortunately one of the sentries discovered an Indian creeping towards him through the grass, and fired at him. This was immediately followed by the Indian yell, and a furious charge upon the left flank. So sudden and fierce was this onset, that the guard stationed in that quarter gave way, at first, to their savage assailants; but, notwithstanding the severe fire, they soon rallied, and maintained their ground with desperate valour. The camp-fires were immediately extinguished, as their light only served to expose our men to the deadly aim of the Indians. Upon the first alarm, the governor mounted his horse, and proceeded to the point of attack; and finding the line much weakened there, he ordered two companies from the centre and rear line to

march up to their support. About this time, Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daviess, of Kentucky, informed the governor that the Indians, concealed behind some trees near the left of the front line, were severely annoying the troops in that quarter, and requested permission to dislodge them. In attempting this hazardous exploit, he charged the Indians on foot, but unfortunately the flash of his pistol exposed him to the deadly aim of the savages, and he was shot down almost instantly, pierced with three balls, either of which would have proved fatal—and thus fell one of the most gallant and chivalric spirits, and one of the most daring and intrepid officers in the whole army. Colonel Isaac White, of Indiana, another brave officer, who served as a volunteer under Colonel Daviess, likewise fell in this sanguinary charge. A heavy fire now commenced upon the right flank, upon a part of the rear line, and upon the entire front as well as upon the left flank. Finding that many of our officers were killed by the severe fire on the right flank, and that our men there were warmly pressed, the governor led another company to their aid, which enabled them to defend their position during the rest of the attack. While the governor was leading this company into action, his gallant aid, Colonel Owen, of Kentucky, was killed at his side. The battle was now maintained in every direction with desperate valour. The Indians advanced and retreated by a rattling noise made with deer-hoofs. They fought with great enthusiasm, and seemed determined to conquer. Our men maintained the fight with even more than their accustomed bravery, and the governor was unwearied in his active exertions. Amid all the din of battle, the fierce shouting of our troops, and the fiend-like yellings of the savages, his clear and manly voice was heard encouraging and supporting his men where they were most severely pressed, and cheering them on to victory. He repeatedly, during the engagement, changed their position to meet the varying attacks of his desperate assailants, and in all these evolutions the troops were formed and led into action by himself.

When the day dawned, the left flank, the most assailable part of the encampment, was reinforced by four companies drawn from the rear and centre; the right flank was strengthened by two companies; the dragoons were mounted, and, supported by

them, a simultaneous charge was made upon the enemy on both flanks. And so vigorous and determined was this attack, that the enemy gave way on all sides—the Indians on the left flank were driven into a swamp impenetrable to cavalry, while those on the right were put to flight with great loss, and this severely-contested victory was at last gained by our gallant troops.

The Prophet took no active part in this battle, but during the whole of the contest, he remained secure on a neighbouring eminence, chanting a war-song. He had promised his warriors that “the Great Spirit would turn the powder of the whites into ashes, and charm their bullets, so that they should drop harmless, and that the red men should have light, while their enemies were involved in utter darkness.” Soon after the battle commenced, he was told that his warriors were falling in great numbers, but he bade them fight on, and they would soon see the fulfilment of his predictions.

Tecumthe was not present at this battle, being on a visit to the southern tribes, whom he was endeavouring to unite in his combination against the United States.

The battle of Tippecanoe was unquestionably one of the most spirited and well-fought actions recorded in the annals of our Indian wars. The numbers and weapons on either side were nearly equal; and the Indians, contrary to their usual custom, fought hand to hand, and with the most desperate ferocity; displaying a boldness and reckless daring, during the engagement, that can only be accounted for by their reliance on the specious promises held out to them by the prophet. Every man in this battle encountered his share of danger, but no man was in more personal peril than Governor Harrison himself—well known to many of the Indians, and the object of their peculiar attack, his fearless and unshrinking exposure, makes it seem almost a miracle that he should have escaped unwounded. In referring to the coolness and intrepidity of Governor Harrison, on this occasion, we cannot refrain from making the following extracts from a journal published in Keene, New Hampshire, by Adam Walker, a private soldier, who fought in this battle, and who could have had no interested motives for his publication;—“General Harrison,” he says, “received a shot through the rim of his hat. In the heat of

the action, his voice was frequently heard, and easily distinguished, giving his orders in the same calm, cool, and collected manner, with which we had been used to receive them on drill or parade. The confidence of the troops in the General was unlimited." The same writer, in speaking of Harrison's kindness to the soldiers, and his influence over them, remarks:—"He appeared not disposed to detain any man against his inclination; being endowed by nature with a heart as humane as brave, in his frequent addresses to the militia, his eloquence was formed to persuade; appeals were made to reason as well as feeling, and never were they made in vain."

An incident that occurred at this time is worth recording. The night before the battle, a negro man belonging to the camp, who had been missing, was arrested near the Governor's marquee, under very suspicious circumstances. He was tried by a court-martial for desertion to the enemy, and for an attempt to assassinate the Governor. Sufficient evidence was found to convict him, and he was sentenced to death; yet such were the humane feelings of Harrison, that he could not induce himself to sign the order for his execution. As the criminal attempt had been made against his own life, he felt himself privileged to exercise his benevolence towards the offender, and the misguided wretch was suffered to escape the just punishment of his crime. It would have been more in accordance with the principles of strict justice, to have allowed the law to take its own course in this instance—but the circumstances of the case were very peculiar, and Governor Harrison's conduct evinced a magnanimity and humanity of heart rarely equalled.

The importance of the victory at Tippecanoe cannot be too highly estimated. It quelled the haughty spirit of the discontented and hostile Indians, and defeated the plan, which they had almost matured, of attacking and destroying our scattered border settlements in detail. Had we lost this battle, our army must have been annihilated—the whole extent of our defenceless frontier would have been left to the mercy of sanguinary and unsparing savages, and the consequent loss of life, and destruction of property would have been almost incalculable.

President Madison, in his message to Congress, dated Decem-

ber 18th, 1812, makes the following honourable mention of this battle:—"While it is deeply to be lamented," says the President, "that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action which took place on the 9th ult., Congress will see, with satisfaction, the dauntless spirit and fortitude victoriously displayed by every description of troops engaged, as well as the collected firmness which distinguished their commander, on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valour and discipline."

The Legislature of Kentucky, at their ensuing session, on the motion of John J. Crittenden, now a distinguished member of the United States Senate, expressed their high sense of Governor Harrison's good conduct on this occasion, by the following complimentary resolution:—

"Resolved, That in the late campaign against the Indians, on the Wabash, Governor W. H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful, and gallant conduct, in the late battle of Tippecanoe, he deserves the warmest thanks of the nation."

This high encomium came from those whose friends and neighbours had participated in the late campaign, and who were consequently familiar with all its details, and with the merits of the commander-in-chief.

War was declared against Great Britain, in June, 1812. Prior to this event, British agents had, for a long time, been tampering with the discontented Indians within our territory, and had bribed them with presents, and furnished them with firearms, to induce them to renew their hostilities against our country. The crafty and daring Tecumthe, too, was once more, in the field. Urged on by his savage eloquence, by their own natural love for war and plunder, and by the atrocious intrigues of foreign agents, the north-western Indians again raised the war-whoop, and commenced their barbarous system of warfare. Their cruel murders and depredations became of frequent occurrence, and the wailings of bereaved mothers and orphans, and the bitter complaints of those who had escaped from the conflagration of their plundered homes, excited the commiseration of our hardy borderers, and roused a

general feeling of indignation. Such was the state of excitement in our frontier settlements in the summer of 1812.

Immediately after the declaration of war, our western governors promptly adopted every measure in their power, for the defence of their respective States and Territories. But conscious of the great abilities and experience of Harrison, they placed the utmost reliance on his counsels, and looked to him as the leader, under whom they might hope for success against the common enemy. He aided Governor Edwards in placing the frontier of Illinois in a posture of defence, and soon after, was invited by Governor Scott of Kentucky, a distinguished revolutionary officer, to a conference in relation to the Kentucky troops, which had been raised for the defence of the frontier. He accepted this invitation, and met Governor Scott at Frankfort; where he was received with the acclamations of the people, and with the highest civil and military honours. These public marks of the high estimation in which Harrison was held by the people, were shortly after followed by proofs still more flattering of their confidence in his patriotism, his abilities, and his military skill.

Governor Scott had levied an armed force of more than five thousand militia and volunteers, commanded by some of the ablest men and most experienced officers in the State. Two thousand of these troops were ordered for immediate service; and they had no sooner learned that they were destined to march to the aid of their fellow-countrymen on the frontier, than they at once unanimously expressed the most earnest desire to be placed under the command of Governor Harrison. This feeling was responded to by the wishes of the whole mass of the people throughout the State. The laws of Kentucky, however, would not permit any other than a citizen, to hold a command in the State militia. In this dilemma, Governor Scott consulted with the venerable Shelby, (the governor elect), the Hon. Henry Clay, and other distinguished citizens of the state, and by their unanimous advice he gave Harrison a brevet commission of major general in the Kentucky militia, with express authority to take command of the gallant troops, about to march to the frontier. This was a bold and unprecedented measure, but one that gave unbounded satisfaction



to both soldiers and citizens, and one fully warranted by the peculiar exigencies of the case. These facts speak volumes in favour of the remarkable popularity and high military reputation which Governor Harrison enjoyed in a population of brave and chivalric people, boasting an unusual proportion of talented and distinguished men.

About this time, the cowardice and imbecility of General Hull, tamely surrendered to the British, the important post of Detroit, with the gallant force which composed its garrison. This event spread consternation, far and wide, through the western country, and greatly increased the difficulty and arduous nature of Governor Harrison's duties. He immediately, however, organized the brave troops under his command, and commenced a course of rigid discipline and military training; with the confident hope of retrieving the disasters, consequent upon the cowardly surrender of Detroit.

But his operations were soon interrupted by the receipt of official letters from the War Department, written in ignorance of the surrender of Hull and of the proceedings in Kentucky, and appointing General Winchester to take command of the forces marching to Detroit. Governor Harrison was, at the same time, appointed Brigadier General in the service of the United States—but he declined to accept this appointment, being desirous that the War Department should first be made aware of the arrangements by which he had received the command of the Kentucky troops. Meanwhile, the army had marched to the northwestern frontier of Ohio, and Governor Harrison, having relieved Fort Wayne, which had been besieged by the enemy, and having destroyed the Indian towns on the Elkhart and the Wabash, resigned the command to Winchester, to return to Indiana, and resume the duties of his territorial government.

General Winchester, who had thus taken the chief command, was an old revolutionary soldier, and a brave and meritorious officer; but being less known and less distinguished, he was not, like Harrison, possessed of the enthusiastic confidence of the army. Governor Harrison nevertheless exerted every effort in his power, to reconcile the troops to this change. But soon after he left them, their displeasure at having been deprived of their favourite com-

mander, was not confined to murmurs, but created disaffection and almost mutiny. The volunteers especially were loud in their complaints and expressions of dissatisfaction at the change of commanders—and the troops were at last induced to continue their march, solely by the belief that as soon as the case was rightly understood at Washington, the command would be restored to Governor Harrison.

This expectation was speedily realized—for no sooner was the President made aware of the condition of the army, and of the almost unanimous wishes of the western people, than he immediately appointed Harrison, in place of Winchester, commander-in-chief of the Northwestern army. The despatch conveying this appointment, overtook him on his way to Indiana, and he returned, without delay, to the army, and was reinstated in his command.

The powers conferred on Harrison, as commander-in-chief of the Northwestern army, were of great extent, and he was left to exercise them according to his own unrestricted judgment. In the despatch containing this appointment, dated September 17th, 1812, the Secretary of War says:—"You will command such means as may be practicable—exercise your own discretion, and act in all cases according to your own judgment"—thus conferring upon him extraordinary and almost unlimited powers. We refer to this, merely that we may here notice the remarkable fact, that, though vested with unusual powers, General Harrison was never known, during the whole of his command, to exercise his authority in an unjust or oppressive manner. His measures were energetic, but always qualified by his characteristic moderation and humanity, and by a due regard for the feelings of every soldier in his camp.

This appointment, it should be remembered too, was not obtained by General Harrison by any party or personal influence, but was conferred upon him in compliance with the almost unanimous wishes of the western people; and by a President, who, when Secretary of State under Jefferson, had been in constant correspondence with him in relation to the territorial affairs of Indiana, and had thus enjoyed an ample opportunity of forming a fair estimate of his abilities and qualifications.

The duties that devolved on General Harrison, in his new station, were arduous beyond description. The troops under his command, though brave, were either volunteers for a limited period of time, or inexperienced and undisciplined recruits; and the army was badly equipped, and nearly destitute of baggage and military stores. With these inadequate means, and under these unfavourable circumstances, he was required to defend an immense extent of frontier, stretching along the shores of the great northern lakes, whose numerous harbours and rivers were easy of access to the enemy. In addition to this, the roads leading to those points which most required defence, were nearly impassable, and lay, for hundreds of miles, through a wilderness swarming with hostile Indians, and through gloomy and dangerous swamps, where the troops, though little encumbered with baggage, could advance but slowly, and with great labour. But under all these difficulties, the spirits of the soldiers were sustained by the presence and example of their favourite commander—who animated them in their fatigues, and cheerfully endured the same hardships and privations which they encountered.

The published accounts of our recent war with the Seminoles in Florida, the disastrous details of which have been made but too familiar to us, will convey to our readers some idea of the peculiar dangers and difficulties of this campaign, and of the skill and fortitude required to overcome them. In either case, we were opposed by the same savage foe, and the country was almost inaccessible from the same causes—its unhealthiness at that season of the year and its extensive and treacherous swamps, the passes through which were known only to the hostile Indians by whom they were occupied—with perhaps, in the two cases, but this difference only, that the northern Indians are well known to be much fiercer and more formidable warriors than their southern brethren, and that, during the whole of this campaign, they were kept constantly supplied, by the British, with more effective arms and ammunition.

Yet, undismayed by these dangers and obstacles, General Harrison, wishing to strike an early blow at the enemy, formed the bold and daring design of a winter campaign—hoping, by a rapid and unexpected movement, to recapture Detroit, take Malden, and

perhaps overrun the greater part of Upper Canada. To lessen the difficulty of collecting the necessary supply of provisions and forage, and to form the requisite depots, he stationed the several corps of his army at three different points. The left wing, consisting principally of Kentuckians, under the command of General Winchester, he posted at Fort Defiance—the centre, composed of Ohio troops under the command of General Tupper, he stationed at Fort McArthur—and the right wing, consisting of the Pennsylvania and Virginia brigades, was under his own immediate command, at Upper Sandusky. After accumulating supplies of provisions and military stores at these several points, the army was to take up the line of march by three different routes. The left wing was to descend the river from Fort Defiance, the centre to advance along Hull's Trace, the right wing was to cross the *Black Swamp* by a difficult and dangerous route, and the three corps were to meet and concentrate the entire forces of the army at the Rapids of the Maumee, near Wayne's old battle ground.

Having made all these arrangements, the general used every effort to hasten the necessary supplies, and meanwhile kept the troops constantly and laboriously employed in building forts, forming depots, and cutting roads to facilitate his future operations.

The centre and right wing of the army, not being far removed from our settlements, were able to collect provisions with comparative ease; but the left wing, stationed at a more remote distance, found great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply even for their own immediate subsistence. Under these circumstances, and ascertaining that he could procure forage in abundance at the Rapids, General Winchester, having received the instructions of General Harrison, determined to move his forces down the Maumee to the appointed place of concentration, without waiting for the co-operation of the centre and right wing of the army. He accordingly, on the 30th of December, took up his line of march for the Rapids. On the same day, a gallant young volunteer from Kentucky (Mr. Leslie Combs\*), was sent with a despatch to ap-

\* Now *General* Leslie Combs—a distinguished citizen of Kentucky, and recently a conspicuous delegate from that State to the Convention at Harrisburgh.

prise General Harrison of this movement. On the day after Mr. Combs had set out with this despatch, a heavy rain fell, followed immediately by a violent snow storm, which continued without intermission for nearly three days, and covered the ground to the depth of two feet, thus preventing the rain which had first fallen from freezing. On foot, and with but a single guide, his way, which led partly through a wilderness and partly through the Black Swamp, would, under the most favourable circumstances, have been toilsome and dangerous. But the unexpected yet unavoidable difficulties were such, and the circuit he was compelled to make round the morasses so increased the distance (about a hundred miles), that this despatch was delayed five days longer than had been anticipated. Mr. Combs arrived at his point of destination, Fort McArthur, on the 7th of January, worn out and exhausted with fatigue and privations—neither he nor his guide having tasted food of any kind, for the last three days of their journey. General Tupper at once forwarded this despatch to General Harrison, who received it on the 12th of January, and immediately issued orders for sending on a part of the artillery to support General Winchester, and a supply of provisions for his troops.

In the mean time, General Winchester had proceeded down the Maumee to the Rapids, where he arrived on the 10th of January, and encamped at a strong position on the north side of the river, which he fortified.

The first information General Harrison received of Winchester's arrival at this place, came, not from that officer himself, but through an indirect channel. On the evening of the 16th, an express arrived from General Perkins, who then commanded a force at Lower Sandusky, informing Harrison that Winchester had encamped at the Rapids, and had applied to him for a battalion of troops, to aid in *a movement that he was meditating* against the enemy. Alarmed at this intelligence, and dreading disastrous consequences, General Harrison instantly despatched reinforcements to Winchester, and used every effort to forward him a supply of provisions and military stores.

Soon after Winchester had arrived at the Rapids, the inhabitants of Frenchtown—a small settlement on the river Raisin, within our

territory, sent messages to General Winchester urgently entreating him to protect them from the large force of British and Indians, assembled at Malden, only eighteen miles distant from their town. By the advice of a council of his officers, Winchester determined to comply with their entreaties, and send on a strong force for their protection. On the 17th, Colonel Lewis and Colonel Allen were detached for this duty, and marched at the head of six hundred and sixty men. The next day, they arrived at the river Raisin, and finding that the forces of the enemy were already in Frenchtown, they attacked them with great gallantry, and after a sharp action, succeeded in dislodging them, and gained possession of the place. The engagement commenced at three o'clock, and the pursuit continued until dusk, when the enemy were driven several miles from the field of action. Flushed with this victory, Colonel Lewis determined to maintain his position, and despatched an express to General Winchester to apprise him of his intention.

Winchester, on hearing this intelligence, approved of the decision of Colonel Lewis, and knowing his critical situation, hastened to support him with all his force. He arrived and encamped at Frenchtown on the 20th—but, unfortunately, for the first time during the whole campaign, he omitted to fortify his position; and even neglected to station a piquet guard on the road leading to Malden, where the enemy were posted in great strength. The whole of the 21st was suffered to pass away without any of these necessary precautions having been adopted—and on the following morning, the British and Indians from Malden, having advanced unperceived, with their entire force, opened a heavy fire of grape-shot upon our troops, from several pieces of artillery, at a distance of not more than three hundred yards from the camp. The troops under Winchester's immediate command, completely taken by surprise and unprotected by any fortification, were soon overpowered by numbers, and forced to retreat in confusion. Winchester, and the intrepid Lewis and Allen, made every effort to rally the fugitives, but in vain. They fled in disorder across the river and to the woods, where the Indians having gained their flank and rear, pursued and tomahawked them without mercy, General Winchester and some few others were taken prisoners and carried to the British camp.

But a part of Lewis's detachment, who had adopted the precaution to protect their encampment by pickets, still defended their position with great bravery and resolution; until Proctor, the commander of the British force, procured an order from Winchester, commanding them to surrender. As their ammunition was nearly expended, and they had no hope of relief, these heroic troops, though reluctantly, obeyed this order—but not, however, until Proctor had given them an express assurance of protection from the exasperated rage and cruelty of the Indians.

All the prisoners who were able to make the exertion, were marched to Malden; but those who were severely wounded were left behind in the houses at Frenchtown, with the repeated promises of Proctor, that they should be protected from the savages, and that, the next morning, sleds should be sent to convey them to Malden. But instead of this, they were left wholly unprotected, and the next day, in place of the sleds, came a party of infuriated Indians, who set fire to the town, burnt the houses, and barbarously murdered all the prisoners in cold blood!

The defeat and massacre at the river Raisin produced a great sensation throughout the Western country, and especially in Kentucky—which State, always foremost in danger, lost some of her most valuable citizens and gallant officers in this disastrous affair. So serious a calamity necessarily excited much discussion with regard to its causes, and as some censure was thrown on those who committed no error, and who were not instrumental in causing the defeat of Winchester, which proved the defeat of the campaign, it is proper that we should proceed to state the measures taken by General Harrison to reinforce General Winchester, and prevent the unfortunate result above related.

On the evening that General Harrison received, though indirectly, the intelligence of General Winchester's contemplated movement against the enemy, as before stated, he immediately despatched an express to the Rapids for information, gave orders for a corps of three hundred men to hasten on with the artillery, and for escorts to advance, without delay, with the provisions and military stores. The next morning *he proceeded himself* to Lower Sandusky, at which place he arrived in the night following—having travelled a distance of forty miles, in seven hours and a half, over roads requiring such exertion to pass them, that the horse of

his aid, Major Hakill, fell dead, from fatigue and exhaustion, on their arrival at the fort. He found there, that General Perkins had prepared to send a battalion to the Rapids, in conformity with a request from General Winchester. That battalion was despatched the next morning, the 18th, with a piece of artillery; but so bad were the roads, that it was unable, by its utmost exertions, to reach the river Raisin, a distance of seventy-five miles, before the fatal disaster.

General Harrison then determined to proceed to the Rapids himself, to learn personally from General Winchester his situation and views. At four o'clock on the morning of the 19th, while he still remained at Lower Sandusky, he received the information, that Colonel Lewis had been sent with a detachment, to secure the provisions on the river Raisin, and to occupy, with the intention of holding possession of the village of Frenchtown. There was then but one regiment and a battalion at Lower Sandusky—the regiment was immediately put in motion, with orders to make forced marches for the Rapids, while General Harrison himself immediately proceeded to the same place. On his way, he met an express with intelligence of the successful battle, which had been fought on the preceding day.

The anxiety of General Harrison to push forward, and either prevent, or remedy any misfortune which might occur, as soon as he was apprised of the advance to the river Raisin, was manifested by the great personal exertions which he made in this instance. He started in a sleigh, with General Perkins, to overtake the battalion under Cotgreve, attended only by a single servant. As the sleigh went very slowly, from the roughness of the road, he took the horse of his servant and pushed on alone. Night came upon him in the midst of the swamp, which was so imperfectly frozen, that his horse sank to the saddle-girths at every step. He had then no resource but to dismount and lead his horse, jumping himself from one sod to another. When almost exhausted with the cold and fatigue, the General overtook one of Cotgreve's men, by whose assistance he was enabled to reach the camp of the battalion.

Very early on the morning of the 20th, General Harrison arrived at the Rapids, from which place General Winchester had gone, on the preceding evening, with all his disposable force, to



the river Raisin. On the same day, by a forced march, Cotgreve's battalion reached the Rapids, and was, without delay, hurried on with two pieces of artillery, to the aid of Winchester—and on the evening of the 21st, three hundred Kentuckians, who had been left behind by Winchester, as a garrison, were likewise ordered to march to Frenchtown. The next day intelligence reached the Rapids of Proctor's attack on Winchester's camp, and General Harrison instantly ordered the whole force at that station to be pushed on with all possible expedition, and himself hastened forward to the scene of danger. They were soon, however, met by fugitives from the field of battle, from whom they ascertained the total defeat of Winchester's forces. A council was held of general and field officers, by whom it was decided that it would be imprudent and useless to advance any further. Strong parties were then sent out to protect the fugitives from the field of battle and from Frenchtown, and the remainder of the troops returned to the Rapids.

It is thus evident that every thing possible, within the control of General Harrison, was done by him to reinforce and aid General Winchester in the dangerous position he had assumed. This expedition of Winchester, to the river Raisin was highly imprudent, since he advanced within eighteen miles of the head-quarters of the enemy, whose forces were strong and daily increasing, and he, at the same time, removed more than thirty miles from the Rapids, the nearest point from which he could possibly have received any assistance. Still the disastrous result that ensued would no doubt have been avoided, had he adopted the ordinary precautions of fortifying his camp, and stationing videttes to give him timely warning of the approach of the enemy. His troops could then, at least, have defended themselves until the arrival of the reinforcements from the Rapids, when the enemy would have been compelled to retreat, or, had they fought, the battle would, in all probability, have terminated in our favour.

After Winchester's defeat, our troops at the Rapids amounted to less than nine hundred effective men. General Harrison called a council of war, who, supposing that their position would be attacked by the enemy in overwhelming force, unanimously recommended that the army should fall back to Portage River, eighteen

miles distant. The next morning, therefore, our troops abandoned the Rapids, and retired to the designated point, which they strongly fortified.

But on the 1st of February, the army, having been reinforced by the arrival of General Leftwich, with the Virginia brigade and a part of the artillery, augmenting their number to eighteen hundred men, again marched to the Rapids. General Harrison, still entertaining a hope to accomplish the great objects of the campaign, during the winter, continued to exert himself unremittingly in making preparations. But the elements seemed to conspire against him. Instead of the severe cold and intense frosts, that usually prevailed in this northern region, at this season, and which would have enabled him to move his forces, military stores, and supplies, with comparative ease and celerity, warm rains broke up the roads, and were followed by heavy falls of snow, which rendered the march of troops exceedingly fatiguing and dangerous, as well as slow, and the conveyance of provisions and heavy munitions of war almost impossible. The unavoidable exposure, too, of the troops to the heavy rains, which kept the encampment almost constantly inundated, the deficiency of proper tents to shelter them, and their want even of sufficient food and clothing, produced pleurisies and much other severe sickness in the camp, and greatly reduced the number of effective men.\*

Under these circumstances, General Harrison was at length constrained to abandon, though with much reluctance, all thought of the contemplated expedition to Malden, and he prepared to go into winter quarters at the Rapids. He accordingly selected a good position on the south side of the river, which he strongly fortified, and called Camp Meigs, in honour of the patriotic governor of Ohio. Leaving the army at that station, General Harrison proceeded to Cincinnati, to procure reinforcements of men, and supplies of provisions and military stores.

We should here mention, that, while engaged in the various and

\* The General's tent, placed in the centre, happened to be in one of the lowest parts of the encampment, and consequently suffered most from the rain; but, when entreated by his officers to change its position, he refused to do so, declaring that it was necessary that every military man should be satisfied with the situation which, in the course of his duty, fell to his lot.

arduous services of this campaign, General Harrison organised several distinct expeditions against the Indian towns, to keep the hostile savages in check, and protect our extended frontier. One of these expeditions, consisting of a detachment of six hundred men, under the command of Colonel Campbell, was sent against the towns on the Mississineway, from which our scattering settlements had suffered much annoyance. This enterprise was conducted with great skill, and proved signally successful. The principal town was attacked in the most gallant manner, and, after a desperate action of more than an hour, was carried at the point of the bayonet. From the general order issued by Harrison, on the return of this expedition, we make the following extract, which will convey some idea of the humane and generous feelings, that have always characterised both his public and private conduct. After awarding these gallant troops the high meed of praise which their bravery had won, he goes on to say,—“But the character of this gallant detachment, exhibiting as it did, perseverance, fortitude, and bravery, would, however, be incomplete, if, in the midst of victory, they had forgotten the feelings of humanity. It is with the sincerest pleasure that the General has heard, that the most punctual obedience was paid to his orders, in not only saving all the women and children, but in sparing all the warriors who ceased to resist; and that even when vigorously attacked by the enemy, the claims of mercy prevailed over every sense of their own danger, and this heroic band respected the lives of their prisoners. Let an account of murdered innocence be opened in the records of heaven against our enemies alone. The American soldier will follow the example of his government; and the sword of the one will not be raised against the fallen and helpless, nor the gold of the other be paid for the scalps of a massacred enemy.” What a contrast do these noble sentiments present to the atrocious conduct of the British General, Proctor—who, at the cruel massacre at Raisin river, and at the Rapids, basely permitted unresisting prisoners of war to be unsparingly butchered, by his savage and remorseless allies.

Early in the spring, intelligence was received that the British were making extensive preparations, and concentrating a large force of regular soldiers, Canadians, and Indians, to besiege Fort

Meigs. On obtaining this information, General Harrison hastened to his camp, and exerted the most strenuous efforts, to prepare for this threatened attack of the enemy. His presence cheered the troops, and he inspired them with fresh ardour, on the approach of the enemy, by an eloquent address, in which he alluded modestly, but in the most animating manner, to the neighbouring battle-field, where General Wayne had gained the brilliant victory of the Maumee Rapids, and where he himself had won the brightest of his earlier laurels.

At this time, the garrison of Fort Meigs was much reduced in numbers, and the period for which those who still remained had enlisted, was about to expire. General Harrison therefore looked with great anxiety for the arrival of the strong reinforcement of Kentucky troops, who were approaching with all possible despatch under General Clay; but whose march had been greatly impeded by the wretched condition of the roads.

On the morning of the 28th of April, the scouts brought in intelligence of the near advance of the enemy. And soon after, on that day, the British troops were discovered from the fort, ascending the river in vessels and boats, while the Indians, in strong force, were seen approaching, at the same time, by land. The British disembarked and encamped at the old station on the Maumee, nearly two miles below Fort Meigs; and on the night after they landed, they commenced the construction of three powerful batteries, on the north side of the river, directly opposite our camp.

On the first of May, the batteries of the enemy were completed. But to counteract their effect, during the time they had been employed in erecting them, our troops had thrown up a traverse of earth, twelve feet in height, and running across the whole extent of the camp. The construction of this traverse, being behind the tents of our camp, had been entirely concealed from the British, but as soon as their batteries began to play, these tents were struck, and to the disappointment of the enemy, our troops were safely withdrawn behind the protection of their new fortification. A severe fire was now opened from the British works, which was returned, with equal vigour and more effect, from the fort. Other batteries were likewise erected by the

enemy, on the southern side of the river, and a heavy cannonading was continued, with scarcely any intermission, for five days. In consequence, however, of the skilful dispositions of General Harrison, very little loss was suffered on our side.

At midnight, on the fourth of May, General Harrison received the welcome intelligence that General Clay with his forces was just above the Rapids, and would arrive at the fort by daybreak of the next morning. Immediately on receiving this information, General Harrison promptly decided to make a bold and vigorous effort to raise the siege, by a simultaneous attack on the enemy's batteries on both sides of the river. Preparations were at once made for a sortie from the fort, against the British works on the right bank, and an officer was despatched to General Clay, directing him to land six or eight hundred men, about a mile above the fort, on the left bank, with orders to march with great secrecy and rapidity to the assault of the batteries in that quarter, to carry them by storm, spike the cannon, and let down the carriages, and then hasten to their boats and cross over to the camp. The sortie from the fort was attended with great success. The detachment ordered to this service, consisted of three hundred and fifty men, a part of whom were regulars, and the remainder volunteers and Kentucky militia, under the command of Colonel Miller, of the United States army. These brave troops attacked a body of British regulars and Indians, of more than double their number; but the impetuosity of their charge was irresistible, and after a severe struggle, they drove the enemy from the batteries. They spiked the cannon, took a large number of prisoners, and having fully accomplished their object, returned in triumph to the fort. This sortie was one of the most sanguinary and desperate actions, fought during the whole war—and its brilliant success was richly merited, by the intrepid gallantry of the brave troops engaged in the enterprise.

General Clay, after detaching Colonel Dudley with eight hundred men, to attack the batteries on the left bank, descended the river with his troops in boats; and though endangered by the swiftness of the rapids, and strongly opposed by the Indians, he overcame every difficulty and fought his way, in safety, to the fort.

In the meantime Colonel Dudley's detachment had landed nearly two miles above the enemy's batteries; but this movement was so unlooked for, that the attack proved completely successful. The British were taken by surprise, and the gallant Kentuckians charging unexpectedly upon them, put them to flight and carried their batteries without the loss of a man. But though the commencement of this enterprise was so well conducted and so singularly fortunate, its result proved far otherwise. When Dudley attacked the batteries, he threw forward a van-guard, consisting of two companies of spies and friendly Indians, under the command of Captain Leslie Combs, whose bravery and intrepidity in the former campaign, as well as the intimate knowledge of the country which he then acquired, had obtained him, though very young, a command over much older officers. Dudley had directed Combs to take possession of the woods skirting the swamp, to prevent the approach of the Indians from that quarter; but in the hurry and excitement of the moment, he omitted to give him any directions to retire to the boats after the storming of the batteries. Combs, in compliance with his orders, posted his men along the edge of the swamp—a position which they had not long occupied, before they were attacked by outlying parties of Indians, who, every moment, increased in numbers. A retreat to the boats might still have been effected by the van-guard, with very inconsiderable loss, but Combs, thinking it necessary, from Dudley's instructions, that he should maintain his position, cheered on his men, who, unaided by any reinforcement, bravely resisted the Indians for some time. By the sacrifice of this small but intrepid body of men, Dudley might even yet have withdrawn the remainder of his troops without much additional loss; but on hearing the report of the Indian rifles, this gallant and high-minded officer, conscious of his omission to give the van-guard the necessary orders to retire to their boats, and hoping to bring them off in safety, hastened at once to their support, leaving Major Shelby with but two companies, in charge of the batteries he had taken. He attacked the Indians with great vigour, and, after a sharp action, succeeded in driving them some distance into the swamp. But, meanwhile, the Indians had been continually crossing over from their main body on the opposite side of

the river, until their force had increased to overwhelming numbers; and Dudley, after repeatedly driving them back by the impetuous charge of his brave Kentuckians, was at last compelled to retreat. He still hoped, however, to make a successful stand against the enemy at the batteries; but on approaching them, he found, to his mortification, that they had been retaken by a superior force of British troops, to whom, finding themselves entirely surrounded by the Indians, the greater part of his men reluctantly surrendered themselves. The brave and generous Dudley himself paid with his life the penalty of his own neglect and thoughtlessness, being killed in this retreat, as were Captain Kilbreath, the second in command to Captain Combs, (who was severely wounded) and several other gallant and meritorious officers. Even after the surrender of our troops, the Indians still continued to tomahawk and scalp them without mercy, in the presence of the British commander and his whole army, until the arrival of Tecumthe, who less savage than Proctor, instantly put a stop to this barbarous massacre.

About two hundred of the left wing of Dudley's detachment escaped to their boats, and succeeded in reaching the fort; but more than an eighth part of all the men and officers engaged in this sanguinary contest were killed, and the remainder were taken prisoners. Thus ended in signal defeat an enterprise ably planned, and conducted for a time with great skill and bravery, and which promised such entire success. But it must be evident to every one, that had the instructions given to Dudley been obeyed, this misfortune could not have occurred, and the day would have been one of unclouded success and triumph.

Foiled by the skilful dispositions of Harrison, and by the battle, or rather succession of battles, fought on the fifth, Proctor was compelled to abandon the siege of Fort Meigs—and on the eighth of May, he broke up his camp, and retreated in disappointment and disgrace.

Thus terminated the glorious defence of Fort Meigs. Harrison, soon after, left General Clay in command of that important post, and, unwearied in his exertions, proceeded to more difficult and arduous duties, at other exposed stations.

The unceasing efforts of the British, and the restless spirit of

Tecumthe, allowed our troops but little time to recover from their severe fatigues. In less than two months after the siege of Fort Meigs had been abandoned, the Indians assembled a formidable body of more than five thousand warriors, under their most noted chiefs, and again threatened an attack on that fortress. On receiving this intelligence, General Harrison, with a small body of regulars, hastened to Fort Meigs, by forced marches, and fortunately arrived there before the enemy. Leaving a reinforcement with General Clay, he returned without delay to his more active duties.

During the whole of this interesting campaign, the vigilance and the intrepidity of General Harrison, with the bravery of his soldiers, enabled him to keep a far superior force of the enemy in check, and to protect the wide extent of our exposed frontier. Our forts were ably defended, and our troops gallantly repelled every attack of the enemy, except in some few instances, where they were assailed by an overwhelming force.

At about the period when the enemy invested Fort Meigs for the second time, they made a desperate attack on Fort Stephenson, a temporary depot at Lower Sandusky, which was bravely and successfully defended by Major Croghan, of the regular service. We particularly mention this event in the campaign, as a noble action worthy of note, and because we wish to advert to the illiberal and unjust remarks, which have been made by some of General Harrison's political enemies, in relation to the defence of this fort, and the subsequent measures of the commander-in-chief. At the date of this attack on Fort Stephenson, the enemy had nearly seven thousand men in the field—two thousand of whom were British regulars and Canadians, and the remainder were warriors of the fiercest Indian tribes. The army under General Harrison was greatly inferior in numbers, and it became his duty, as a skilful commander, to withdraw his unimportant outposts, to avoid risking unnecessarily the loss of a single soldier, and to enable him, by concentrating his forces, to hold the enemy in check, at least, if he should not prove strong enough to give him battle. Fort Stephenson was a temporary and unimportant station, and so commanded by the high ground in its neighbourhood, as to be utterly indefensible against heavy artil-



lery—and such, from their command of the lake, the British could easily transport to its attack. Fully aware of this, from having reconnoitered the ground in person, General Harrison, on learning that this station was about to be assailed, thought it proper to withdraw the garrison. He accordingly despatched an order to Major Croghan, directing him to abandon Fort Stephenson, and repair, if practicable, to head-quarters—which were then at Seneca Town, nine miles further up the river. This order was not received by Major Croghan until the following day—when flying parties of the Indians had become so numerous round the fort, that, as Croghan himself stated, it was too late to carry the order into execution, and he decided on maintaining the place. In consequence of this disobedience of orders, Colonel Wells was immediately sent, with a strong escort of cavalry, to take command of Fort Stephenson, and Croghan was ordered to repair forthwith to head-quarters. But on his arrival there, he made such satisfactory explanations to the commander-in-chief, of the situation of the fort, and of his own respectful intentions, that General Harrison at once reinstated him in his command. He returned to his duties the following morning, and on the same day, July 31st, this station was invested by a force of thirteen hundred British regulars and Indians. They attacked the fort with great vigour, and repeatedly attempted to take it by assault—but they were each time defeated, and were at length forced to abandon their attempt, and retreat in confusion, having lost, in killed and wounded, nearly as many as the entire number of the gallant spirits who defended the fort.

This defence of a position, which General Harrison had ordered to be abandoned, and the fact of his not having immediately advanced upon the enemy, were seized upon, with avidity, by the ignorant and malicious among his political opponents, who industriously circulated the falsest statements and most perverted misrepresentations, in relation to these occurrences. But fortunately, the plain truth soon became so well known, that General Harrison's fair fame suffered no injury from these unfounded calumnies. So many gallant officers as well as honourable and high-minded men bore witness, of their own accord, to the military foresight and wisdom of his measures, that no slander which even the

malice of his calumniators could devise, ever darkened for a moment his unsullied reputation.

We lay before our readers the following short extracts from an address to the public, relative to this affair, which was voluntarily published by the general, field, and staff-officers, of General Harrison's army. After expressing their "regret and surprise, that charges as improper in form as in substance, should have been made against General Harrison, during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky," they go on to say:—"He who believes that with our disposable force, and under the circumstance which then occurred, General Harrison ought to have advanced upon the enemy, must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience.

"On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our circumstances and to the situation of the enemy. \* \* \* \* And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a general, whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country."

The chivalrous and noble-spirited Croghan, who was one of the signers of the above address, about the same time published another paper on this subject, dated from Lower Sandusky, in which he says:—"I have with much regret seen in some of the public prints such misrepresentations respecting my refusal to evacuate this post, as are calculated not only to injure me in the estimation of military men, but also to excite unfavourable impressions as to the propriety of General Harrison's conduct relative to this affair.

"His character as a military man is too well established to need my approbation or support. But his public service entitles him at least to common justice. This affair does not furnish cause of reproach. If public opinion has been lately misled respecting his late conduct, it will require but a moment's cool, dispassionate reflection, to convince them of its propriety. *The measures recently adopted by him, so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proofs of his keen penetration and able generalship.*"

We have dwelt on this passage in the life of General Harrison,

somewhat longer than is consistent with the brevity of this sketch; but the political opponents of General Harrison can find so few points in his whole life, that afford them the slightest apology for censure, that they have been driven to pervert and misrepresent an affair of so simple a nature as this, and one that in truth, entitled him, as the gallant Croghan justly says, to the highest commendation. We have therefore thought it no more than common justice to him and to our readers, to lay before them this plain exposition of facts. The wisest and best actions are often misunderstood or perverted by the ignorant or malicious. We trust and believe that the former constitute the larger portion, of those who have sought to shadow the fair fame of General Harrison; but while mean and sordid spirits exist, envy and detraction will always pursue exalted merit. Even Washington, the Father of our Country, was intrigued against and calumniated.

Disappointed in their hopes of plunder, and dispirited by the numerous defeats they had sustained, the savage allies of the British had become discontented; the second siege of Fort Meigs had been abandoned, and gradually the enemy entirely withdrew from our territory, and concentrated their forces at Malden, their principal stronghold in Upper Canada. It will thus be seen, that the skill with which General Harrison had conducted his defensive operations, the only resource left him in the face of a superior foe, had been eminently successful; and had not only protected our widely extended frontier, but had eventually forced the enemy to retire, mortified and humbled by defeat, from our country.

The activity and enterprise of General Harrison, did not long permit the enemy to rest, after their retreat from our territory. He immediately commenced preparations for carrying the war into their own country, and formed his plan for the capture of Malden, and the conquest of Upper Canada.

During the preceding campaign, in his letters to the War Department, General Harrison had repeatedly urged the great importance of obtaining command of Lake Erie, and the immediate necessity for creating a navy for that purpose. In one of his communications he remarks—"Should our offensive operations be suspended until spring, it is my decided opinion that the

cheapest and most effectual plan will be to obtain command of Lake Erie. This being once effected, every difficulty will be removed. An army of four thousand men landed on the north side of the lake, below Malden, will soon reduce that place, re-take Detroit, and, with the aid of the fleet, proceed down the lake to co-operate with the army from Niagara." In several subsequent letters, he again strenuously urged this plan, until the government were at length convinced of the importance of the measure, and determined upon its adoption. They now resolved to proceed vigorously to the forming a fleet on Lake Erie, and the gallant Perry was sent to superintend its building, and to take the command. No effort of activity or skill was spared to hurry the completion and equipment of the vessels, and early in August, Commodore Perry had the satisfaction of finding that he had a fleet fitted for sea and ready for action, nearly equal in force to that of the enemy. After several ineffectual attempts to bring the British fleet to an engagement, Perry at last had the good fortune to meet them, on the 10th of September, and fought that celebrated action, in which, with an inferior force, after a severely contested battle, he succeeded in gaining a brilliant victory and capturing the entire fleet of the enemy.

By a happy coincidence, this glorious event occurred just about the time when General Harrison had matured his plans for the invasion of Canada. On the 27th of September, the troops embarked at Sandusky Bay, and advanced towards Malden, expecting to find the British and Indians encamped there in full force. But upon landing on the Canada shore, they found that Proctor, disheartened by his recent defeats, had abandoned that stronghold, after having destroyed the fort and navy-yard, and had retreated with his regulars and savage allies to Sandwich. Our army encamped at Malden, having at last driven the enemy from their head-quarters, and gained possession of that fortress, from which had issued, for years past, those ruthless bands of savages, which had swept over our extended frontier, like the wing of the destroying angel, leaving death and destruction only in their path.

Our army advanced rapidly in pursuit of the enemy, and overtook them on the 5th of October, at a place which is destined to

be remembered, as the battle-ground of one of the most remarkable and decisive actions fought during the war.

General Proctor, having had his choice of ground, occupied a strong position, flanked on the left by the river Thames, and supported by artillery; and, on the right, by an extensive swamp, running parallel to the river, and occupied by two thousand Indians, under the daring Tecumthe. But Proctor committed an irretrievable error, in forming his regular soldiers in open order, and extending his line, by placing the files at a distance of three or four feet from each other.

General Harrison drew up one division of his infantry in a double line reaching from the river to the swamp, opposite Proctor's troops, and the other division at right angles to the first, with its front extending along the swamp, with the view of preventing the Indians from turning his left flank and attacking him in the rear. Johnson's mounted regiment was placed in front of the infantry.

The American army advanced in order of battle, and when in the immediate neighbourhood of the enemy, the reconnoitering parties brought in intelligence of the dispositions Proctor had made. Harrison, with the rapid decision of an able general, saw at once the egregious error of his opponent, and instantly took advantage of it. Aware that troops formed in open order could not resist a vigorous charge of cavalry, he immediately ordered Colonel Johnson to form his regiment of mounted men, and dash through the enemy's line, in close column. The charge was rapidly made, and with the most brilliant success. The extended and weakened line of the enemy could offer but a feeble resistance to the charge of these gallant troops, who dashed through their ranks, with overwhelming impetuosity, and formed and attacked them in the rear. Panic-struck by this bold and unexpected manœuvre, and at being assailed both in front and rear, the British threw down their arms in dismay, and the whole army was captured, with the exception of a few, who escaped by an early flight with Proctor. The Indians attacked our troops on the left, and fought with great fierceness and daring, until their renowned chief Tecumthe was slain, when they fled precipitately from the contest, after suffering a severe loss.

This decisive and important battle was thus fought and won, in a space of time almost incredibly short, and with a very trifling loss only on our side. All the baggage of the enemy, and their valuable military stores, together with the official papers of Proctor, fell into our hands; and several pieces of brass cannon, which had been taken from the British in our revolutionary victories at Saratoga and Yorktown, but which Hull had shamefully surrendered at Detroit, were again captured from our ancient foe.

The united force of the British regulars and Indians engaged in this battle, amounted to more than 2800—the number of our troops was less than 2500—and these were principally militia and volunteers. The venerable Governor Shelby commanded the Kentucky volunteers in this battle, and General Cass, our present Minister to France, and the heroic Perry, acted as volunteer aids to General Harrison. This brilliant victory, following up the capture of their fleet on Lake Erie by the gallant Perry, entirely destroyed the force of the enemy in Upper Canada, and put an end to the war on our northwestern frontier.

Upon this, as well as former expeditions, General Harrison adopted a rule, on all occasions, to favour himself in nothing, but to share equally with the common soldiers the fatigues and hardships of the campaign. A small valise contained all his baggage, except his bedding, which consisted of a single blanket only, fastened over his saddle; and even this he gave to Colonel Evans, a British officer, who was wounded and taken prisoner in this battle. Thirty-five British officers, prisoners of war, supped with General Harrison, on the night after the battle, and all the fare he had it in his power to offer them was fresh beef, plainly roasted before a camp-fire, without either bread or salt. This had been the food of the army during the expedition, and the rations of the General were always precisely those of the soldiers. On every occasion, indeed, he made it a point to set an example of fortitude and patience to his men, and to share with them every hardship, difficulty, and danger. Whether encamped or marching, the whole army was regularly under arms at daybreak; and however severe the weather, he never failed to be present, and indeed was generally the first officer on horseback in the whole army.

On receiving the glorious news of the victory of the Thames, the thanks of Congress were expressed to General Harrison in the warmest manner. Among many others, whose grateful feelings found utterance on this occasion, the Hon. Langdon Cheves observed, on the floor of Congress, that—"The victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a Roman general in the best days of the Republic, the honours of a triumph." A sentiment which was fully responded to in the complimentary notices which he received from every part of the union. Simon Snyder, who was then Governor of Pennsylvania, and the idol of the democracy of that state, said in his message to the Legislature, on this occasion, "*The blessings of thousands of women and children rescued from the scalping-knife of the ruthless savage of the wilderness, and from the still more savage Proctor, REST ON HARRISON and his gallant army.*" But the feelings that prompted these grateful expressions were not confined to those states in the more immediate neighbourhood of the seat of war, but were universal throughout the country.

Having entirely defeated the enemy in Upper Canada, General Harrison advanced with a part of his army to the Niagara frontier, and thence to Sackett's Harbour, where he left the troops, and proceeded to the seat of government. On his way thither, he passed through New York and Philadelphia; in which cities he was received, by the whole population, with the most flattering marks of public honour and distinction. After the necessary delay of a few days at Washington, General Harrison proceeded to Ohio, where important duties required his presence.

In the plan for the ensuing campaign, to the surprise and regret of the public, General Harrison was designated for a service, far inferior to that which he had a right to expect. Regardless of the memorable victories which this gallant and experienced officer had won, and unmindful of the various and important services which he had rendered to his country, the Secretary of War saw fit to assign to him the command of a district, where he would be compelled to remain inactive, while others were appointed to those more arduous duties, which he had heretofore fulfilled with so much honour to himself, and to the nation. As if still unsatisfied with this egregious insult which he had offered to General Harrison, the Secretary of War, on the 25th of April, 1814, ap-

pointed a subordinate officer to a separate command within his district, and notified him to that effect. On the receipt of this notification, General Harrison instantly addressed a letter to the secretary, tendering his resignation, with a notification thereof to the president. "As soon as Governor Shelby heard of the resignation of General Harrison, he lost no time in addressing the president in his usual forcible terms, to prevent his acceptance of it; but unfortunately for the public interests, the president was then on a visit to Virginia, to which place the letters from General Harrison and Governor Shelby were forwarded, and that of the latter was not received until after Secretary Armstrong, *without the previous consent of the president*, had assumed to himself the high prerogative of accepting the resignation. The president expressed his great regret that the letter of Governor Shelby had not been received earlier, as in that case the valuable services of General Harrison would have been preserved to the nation in the ensuing campaign."\*

In this resignation, General Harrison evinced the true patriotism and disinterestedness, which have always marked his conduct. He would cheerfully have devoted his services to his country, even in an appointment inferior to that which should have been assigned to him—but he was too high-principled to retain his rank, by yielding assent to a measure, which he considered to be subversive of military order and discipline; and though his own fortune had been shattered by the neglect of his private affairs, for the benefit of the public, yet he scorned to receive the pay and emoluments of his office, when he was no longer permitted to perform its duties actively and honourably.

It would be difficult, at this period, to trace out the true motives that induced the secretary of war to the unjustifiable course he pursued in this affair. But some knowledge of those events of the war in which he bore a part, with a little insight into human nature, would suggest that the leading causes which prompted him, were the envy and jealousy, which a narrow-minded man would naturally feel, on contrasting his own feeble efforts, and abortive attempts, with the consummate skill, the brilliant victories, and the almost uniform successes of another. That he had acted

\* Dawson.



in an arbitrary and unwarrantable manner, was afterwards clearly proved.—And in the investigation which took place in Congress in the winter of 1816–17, it became so evident that General Harrison had been treated with great injustice by the war department, that a resolution, giving him a gold medal and the thanks of Congress, was passed, with but one dissenting voice in both houses of Congress.

The leading events in the campaign of 1812–13,—the gallant defence of Fort Meigs, and the decisive victory of the Thames, are lasting memorials of General Harrison's military genius. Yet, for those isolated actions, he deserves far less praise than for the skilful operations and the Fabian policy, which led to these and other successes. The prudent care and indefatigable exertions, by which he provided for his army in a wild and almost impassable country—the promptness and unwearied activity, with which he met and defeated the schemes of his antagonists—and the admirable skill, with which he held in check an enemy far superior in numbers, and with a small force, protected an extended line of frontier, and guarded the lives and property of thousands of his fellow-citizens, betokened a genius of the highest order, with a vigorous mind constantly on the alert.

Soon after his resignation, in the summer of 1814, Mr. Madison evinced his unabated confidence in the abilities and integrity of General Harrison, by appointing him to treat with the Indians, in conjunction with his old companions in arms, Governor Shelby and General Cass. And in the following year, he was placed at the head of another commission, appointed to treat with the north-western tribes. The advantageous treaties made in both these cases, afforded new instances of the unfailing success, that has always attended General Harrison's negotiations with the Indians.

In 1816, he was elected, by a large majority, a member of the House of Representatives in Congress, from Ohio. In this station he served, greatly to his own honour, and to the satisfaction of his constituents, until 1819; when, on the expiration of his term of service, he was chosen to the Senate of the State Legislature.

In 1824, he was elected a Senator of the United States, from Ohio. While serving in this high station, he commanded univer-

sal respect. His views as a statesman were liberal and extended,—his remarkable readiness in debate soon rendered him a prominent member,—and the nervous and impassioned eloquence, and classical felicity of illustration, with which he enforced his arguments, gained him much influence.

In 1828, he was appointed by Mr. Adams, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, to the Republic of Colombia. He accepted this appointment, and repaired, without delay, to the scene of his duties, where he was received with every demonstration of respect. He found this unhappy country in a deplorable condition—the people ignorant of their rights, and almost in a state of anarchy, and Bolivar apparently about to assume the despotic power of a military dictator. Shocked at this state of things, with the frankness of an old soldier, he wrote his celebrated letter to Bolivar, from which, as we have not space for its entire contents, we take the liberty of quoting the following extract.

“In bestowing the palm of merit,” said General Harrison, “the world has become wiser than formerly. The successful warrior is no longer regarded as entitled to the first place in the temple of fame. Talents of this kind have become too common, and too often used for mischievous purposes, to be regarded as they once were. In this enlightened age, the mere hero of the field, and the successful leader of armies, may, for the moment, attract attention. But it will be such as is bestowed on the passing meteor, whose blaze is no longer remembered, when it is no longer seen. To be esteemed eminently great, it is necessary to be eminently good. The qualities of the hero and the general must be devoted to the advantage of mankind, before he will be permitted to assume the title of their benefactor; and the station which he will hold in their regard and affections will depend, not upon the number and splendour of his victories, but upon the results and the use he may make of the influence he acquires from them.”

We regret that our limits will not permit us to insert the whole of this vigorous and beautiful production. But the few passages we have quoted, contain a fair specimen of the noble sentiments which characterize this letter, and give evidence of the pure republican principles, which have ever distinguished this eminent statesman.

General Harrison remained in Colombia but a short time, having been recalled by the late administration, soon after it came into power.

Since his return from this mission, he has lived in comparative retirement, upon his farm at North Bend, on the Ohio, about fifteen miles below Cincinnati. With the most enticing opportunities of accumulating wealth, during his long government of Indiana, and superintendency of Indian affairs, he acquired none; his honest and scrupulous integrity were proof against the golden temptations. His time and best energies were devoted to the service of his country, and his own interests were ever with him, a secondary consideration. He even, when Governor of Indiana, greatly diminished the usual emoluments of such an office, by refusing to accept any of those fees, whether as Governor or as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, which, before his time had been customarily paid. For his services as commander of the expedition to Tippecanoe, he never asked nor received any compensation. And subsequently, when in command of our Northwestern army, though he lived as frugally and fared as hardly as any of his fellow-citizens in the ranks, yet, at his own expense, he purchased clothing and necessary comforts for his sick and wounded soldiers, until he not only exhausted his pay as commander-in-chief, but seriously encroached too on his own private means. He therefore retired without the spoils of office, and with only a competency barely sufficient for his support; but rich in what he esteemed of far greater value—in a reputation undimmed by a single tarnish, and in the honour and respect of all his fellow-citizens.

We cannot refrain here from alluding to a circumstance, which evinces the peculiar delicacy and honour, which have always swayed General Harrison in his pecuniary transactions. A few years ago, it was ascertained that a large tract of land near Cincinnati, which had been sold some time before for a mere trifle, under an execution against the original proprietor, could not be held by the titles derived from the purchasers, on account of some irregularity in the proceedings. The legal title was in General Harrison and another gentleman, who were the heirs at law. This tract of land was exceedingly valuable and would have

constituted a princely estate for both these heirs, had they chosen to insist on their legal rights—or they might have made some amicable arrangement with the purchasers, to which they would gladly have assented, and have retained at least one half of this property, by giving up the remainder. But General Harrison had never yet suffered his interest to blind his true sense of justice and high-minded honour, nor did he in this instance. On being informed of the situation of this property, he obtained the assent of his co-heir, and immediately executed deeds in fee simple to the purchasers, without claiming any consideration except the trifling difference between the actual value of the land when sold and the amount paid at the sheriff's sale. There were in this tract, too, twelve acres of General Harrison's private property by donation from his father-in-law, which had been improperly included in the sale, and which he might have retained both legally and equitably—but such was his nice sense of honour and scrupulous regard for the rights of others, that he suffered even these twelve acres to be included in the deed given to the purchasers. This portion of the land thus relinquished by General Harrison is now worth more than one hundred thousand dollars!

In person, General Harrison is tall and slender; his features are irregular, but bold and strongly marked; his eyes are dark, keen, and penetrating, his forehead is high and expansive, his mouth peculiarly denotes firmness and genius, and the expression of his countenance is highly indicative of intelligence and benevolence of character. From early manhood he has never had the appearance of possessing a robust constitution, but from the activity and temperate habits of his past life, few men at his age enjoy their moral and physical energies in such remarkable vigour. His manners are plain, frank and unassuming, and his disposition is cheerful, kind, and generous, almost to a fault. In his private intercourse, he is beloved and esteemed by all who know him. In the various civil and military offices he has held, he has always been moderate and forbearing, yet firm and true to his trust. No other commander has ever been more popular with our militia, and the true secret of this cannot be better explained than by his own reply, when asked how he had gained this influence: "By treating them," said he, "with affection and

kindness; by always recollecting that they were my fellow-citizens, whose feelings I was bound to respect; and by sharing with them, on every occasion, the hardships which they were obliged to undergo."

His suavity of manners, his generosity, and kindness of heart invariably won him the warm affections of those who were placed under his authority, while his moderation, his disinterestedness his scrupulous attention to the public interests, and the wisdom with which he exercised the extensive powers entrusted to him, commanded the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

General Harrison is likewise strictly and truly *a pious man*. Though he has always been noted for his particular attention to public worship and Christian offices, yet religion with him has not been a Sabbath-day garment only, but rather an every-day, familiar habit—not a mere sense of incumbent duty, but a warm and spontaneous feeling, kindled into life in his early youth, and forming the hope and firm reliance of his manhood and declining years. The writer of this biography deems it no betrayal of confidence to say that he has more than once, on entering at day-break the chamber of General Harrison, found him on his knees at his bedside, absorbed in his devotions to his Maker, when he could not have supposed that any eye save that of his God was resting on him.

In the republican institutions of our country, birth and parentage are comparatively of very little importance; and no candidate for public favour can found thereon the slightest claim to the respect or the support of his fellow-citizens. We have happily shaken off the thralling prejudices of the old world, and a title to office and honourable distinction is not with us hereditary; but every man must earn his own good name, and his claim on the favour of the people by his own good deeds. Yet, aware, as every one must be, of the powerful influence of early education, it is worthy of remark, as well as gratifying to know, that a candidate for public office, in whom we feel an interest, passed all the early years of his life with the brightest examples of virtue constantly before him; and under the parental tuition of one of those illustrious patriots, whose memory is revered by every true-hearted American. It is pleasing to be assured, that his first political senti-

ments were imbibed in a school of the purest republican principles. And when we trace up the career of this individual, from the spring-time of his youth, to the summer of his manhood and to the early autumn of his years, and see those principles closely adhered to throughout, we can scarcely resist the conviction, that his future course will be consistent with the past; and that, with matured abilities, he will still be more conspicuous for his republican principles, his moderation in office, his firm integrity, and his extended and enlightened views as a statesman. Such were the early advantages of William Henry Harrison; such has been his course thus far through life; and such is now the bright promise, to a realization of which we may safely look forward, should the people see fit to place him in office.

The principles that would govern General Harrison, should he be elected to the Presidency, may be known by the following extracts from a letter addressed by him to the Hon. Harmar Denny, on the 2d of December, 1838.

“ Among the principles proper to be adopted by any Executive sincerely desirous to restore the administration to its original simplicity and purity, I deem the following to be of prominent importance.

“ I. TO CONFINE HIS SERVICE TO A SINGLE TERM.

“ II. TO DISCLAIM ALL RIGHT OF CONTROL OVER THE PUBLIC TREASURE, *with the exception of such part of it as may be appropriated by law to carry on the public services, and that to be applied precisely as the law may direct, and drawn from the treasury agreeably to the long established forms of that department.*

“ III. THAT HE SHOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTIONS, *either by the people or the state legislatures, nor suffer the federal officers under his control to take any other part in them than by giving their own votes when they possess the right of voting.*

“ IV. *That in the exercise of the veto power, he should limit his rejection of bills to: 1st. Such as are in his opinion unconstitutional. 2d. Such as tend to encroach on the rights of the states or individuals. 3d. Such as, involving deep interests, may in his opinion require more mature deliberation or reference to the will of the people to be ascertained at the succeeding elections.*

“ V. *That he should never suffer the influence of his name to be used for purposes of a purely party character.*

“ VI. *That in removals from office of those who hold their appointments during the pleasure of the Executive, the cause of such removal should be stated if requested, to the Senate, at the time the nomination of a successor is made.*

“ And last, but not least in importance,

“ VII. *That he should not suffer the Executive department of the government to become the source of legislation ; but leave the whole business of making laws for the Union to the department to which the Constitution has exclusively assigned it, until they have assumed that perfected shape, where and when alone the opinions of the Executive may be heard.*”

Our confined limits restrain us from making more extensive extracts from this admirable letter—the noble and purely republican sentiments of which, together with its plain yet manly and vigorous language, forcibly remind us of the invaluable writings of our revered *Washington*.

The friends of General Harrison found no especial claim on his military services. His own sentiments on this subject we have already quoted ; and his friends would scorn, as much as he would, any attempt to dazzle a single one of his fellow-citizens by the glory of his military renown, brilliant though it be. They would point rather to his numerous civil services, in the forty years he has devoted to his country ; to the various and important offices he has so ably filled—in the territorial governments, in the legislature of his own state, and in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States ; and to the high order of abilities displayed in his speeches in Congress, in his public acts, and in his voluminous public correspondence. And we here take occasion to say, that all his letters and public papers have been exclusively written by himself ; and that so far from his having called in the mental aid of another, to prepare his messages and despatches, as some of our distinguished men have condescended to do, he has never even employed an amanuensis, to perform the manual labour of his correspondence. His ruling principles through life, appear to have been, an ardent love for his country, and an earnest desire to serve her best interests ; with a devotion to the pure republican maxims of the Revolution, always

unwavering and consistent: unlike the scheming politicians of a more modern school, whose own interest is the polar star that guides them, whatever may betide their country.

The services of General Harrison have always been rendered to his country and not to any political faction: nor have his civil or military promotions ever been obtained by party arrangements or underhand manœuvres; but, on the contrary, they were given him at the earnest wish and by the spontaneous confidence of his fellow-citizens. Neither has his present nomination for the Presidency been made by a discontented faction or political party, but by the voluntary choice of a great majority of the people uttered by their chosen delegates. And happily, the more his claims to the high office for which he has been nominated are canvassed, the more acceptable will he become. A veteran soldier who has won for his country every battle he has fought, an experienced statesman whose integrity has been thoroughly tried and proved, a practical republican of the good old school, and an *honest man*—whose attachment to the true interests of the people is unquestionable, and who will rally about him the great mass of honest and intelligent citizens, and, with their aid and support, will rescue the Constitution, of late so trampled upon by party violence and executive usurpation.

With tried patriotism, with abilities of the highest order, with integrity pure as the unsullied snow, and with the truest republican principles, William Henry Harrison is now before his fellow-citizens, as a candidate for the highest office in their gift. In the long course of his public life, he has always openly avowed and proved himself a staunch advocate of popular rights, and is therefore truly **THE CANDIDATE OF THE PEOPLE**. He comes before them, not with a crowd of pampered and still-grasping officials to intrigue and bribe for him, but with the noble frankness of an honourable and high-minded man, willing and desirous to be judged impartially by his fellow-citizens, and ready to abide by their honest decision.







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