



CHAPTER XV.

Newly erected works at Fort-Erie, and vigorous preparations of defence on the part of the American garrison—Discharge of the sedentary militia—Arrival of the right and left wings of De Watteville's regiment, and investment of Fort-Erie by general Drummond—Relative force of the besiegers, and besieged—Unsuccessful attack upon Black Rock—State of the defences at Fort-Erie—Affairs of piquets—Carriage of boats over-land to Lake-Erie, and gallant capture of two out of three American armed schooners stationed off the fort—Cannonade between the British and Americans at Fort-Erie—Advance of the British to the assault of that fort—Unprepared state, and consequent repulse, of the right column of attack—Proceedings of the left and centre columns—Intrepid behaviour of the British at one of the bastions—Accidental destruction, of that bastion, and heavy loss and repulse of the British—American Accounts—Remarks on sir George Prevost's intercepted letters—Real cause of the failure— American atrocities at Fort-Talbot on Lake Erie—Proposal of an armistice by the British commander-in-chief in the Canadas—Assent of the American government, if extended to the water—Prompt refusal (f the British admiral in the Chesapeake—A greement for exchange of prisoners of war—Immediate

discharge of American prisoners—Shameful delay in discharging the British prisoners— Their suffering state in consequence.

NO sooner had the American army got safe to Fort-Erie, than general Ripley, now the commanding officer, directed the lines of defence to be extended, the fort enlarged, and new batteries erected.* With the aid of his engineers, defences of abattis, traverses, intrenchments, and redoubts, were instantly commenced ; and, from the 27th of July until the 2d or 3d of August, the troops were employed, night and day, in placing the works in a state to sustain the expected, and almost certain attack.*

After discharging the whole of the sedentary militia, general Drummond, as soon as the engineer had constructed a temporary bridge across the Chippeway, for the carriage of the troops and cannon, pushed forward to invest Fort-Erie; within two miles of which he arrived on the 3d of August. Having been joined by the right and left wings of De Watteville's, under lieutenant-colonel Fischer, from Kingston, and the 4th, 5th, and 6th regiments, under lieutenant-colonel Tucker: from the forts George and Mississaga, now garrisoned by the remains (except the light company) of the 89th, the general's force amounted to, — not as Mr. Thomson, with an artful

* Sketches of the War, p. 303.

attempt at exactness, says, " 535," but 3150 men.; partly embodied militia.

The British general, having approached to within about 700 yards of the enemy's fort ; and, having got from Fort-George some battering pieces, and a serjeant's party with rockets, commenced digging intrenchments, and erecting batteries, to overcome the powerful defences constructing on the part of the besieged ; while the latter, with unceasing alacrity, were rendering their position hourly more formidable. As to the number of troops within the fort, the most studied concealment runs through all the American accounts. Admittin_g as many as 1000 to have been placed *hbrs du combat*, in their dear-bought " victory" of the 25th, general Ripley would still have under his command 3000 men; protected by the fort within which they were intrenched ; by the batteries at Black Rock; and by the three armed schooners, Porcupine, Tigress, and Ohio..

In order to facilitate the attack upon Fort-Erie, it became necessary to capture or destroy the Black Rock batteries and armed vessels; to whose heavy flanking tire the British troops, in their advance to the assault, would necessarily • be exposed. To effect the first of these objects, - lieutenant-colonel Tucker, at the head of six companies of the 41st, the light company of the 89th, and two flank companies (very weak)

of the 104th, regiments, amounting, in all, to 460 rank and file, crossed the strait, early on the morning of the 3d, and landed a short distance below Conejockeda, or Schojeoquady, creek.* The American force at Black Rock, consisted of 240 men of the 1st rifle regiment, and a small body of volunteers, under the command of major Morgan; who, having, by deserters, or some other means, gained information of the intended attack, had taken a position on the upper, or south. side of the reek, cut away the bridge crossing it, and thrown up a breast-work of logs. Colonel Tucker, with his men, advanced to the creek side, with the view of repairing the bridge, under cover of his fire. " Major Morgan," says Mr. Thomson, " did not attempt to retard the enemy's advances, until he was within rifle-distance, when he opened a fire, which proved so destructive, that lieutenant-colonel Tucker fell back to the skirt of a neighbouring wood, and kept up the contest at long. shot. In the mean time, general Drummond threw over reinforcements, and the British detachment now amounted to nearly 1'200 imen."† We have already had several specimens of Mr. Thompson's powers at bringing up " reinforcements." In this instance, not a man crossed over, except the original party ; in which statement we are supported by Mr. Thomson's con-

* See Plate I. + Sketches of the War, p. 304. ',

cans ; has compiled abundance of entertainment for his American readers. In the only material fact which he advances, he has been misinformed. "The enemy's line," says he, "was protected by several block-houses."# On the contrary, at this time, there was not, among the British works, even an apology for one. : Why did he not find room for stating, that commodore Chauncey, having equipped his second frigate, and ascertained that the British fleet was divided, had been out upon the lake, since the first of the month; or, in the words of an article from "Batavia, August 13th," say :—"A considerable reinforcement of troops from up the lake joined our army at Fort Erie, a few days since ; and eight or ten hundred more are daily expected from that quarter"?-- His reasons will be more obvious, as we proceed.

Captain Dobbs, of the Charwell, which vessel, along with the Netley and others, was lying at Fort-George, had come up with a party of seamen and marines, for the purpose of attacking the three American armed schooners, lying at anchor close to Fort-Erie. The strength of the current, and the danger of attempting to pass between the batteries at that fort and Black Rock, were no slight difficulties in the plan of operations. The Charwell's seamen having brought captain Dobbs's gig, upon their shoulders, from Queenstown to Frenchman's creek, a distance of 20 miles; the next point was, to get

* Sketches of the War, p. 306. f James's Nay. Occ. p. 398.

that gig, as well as five batteaux which had been procured for the purpose, into Lake Erie. Lieutenant-colonel Nichol, quarter-master-general of the militia, pointed out, and offered to transport the boats by, an eight miles' route through the woods.* The proposal was acceded to ; and, at half past seven on the evening of the 11th of August, the boats were launched into the lake, eight miles above Fort-Erie. In half an hour afterwards, captain Dobbs, with his gig and five batteaux, containing 75 officers, seamen, and marines,—a greater complement of British, by one-third, than manned captain Barclay's fleet of ships, brigs, and schooners, upon this same lake,†—hastened to attack three American armed schooners; whose united complements were known to exceed 100 men, and those of no ordinary class. The gig and two batteaux formed one division, under captain Dobbs ; the remaining three batteaux, the other, under lieutenant Radcliffe, of the Netley. The manner in which the schooners Ohio and Somers were boarded, and carried, by captain Dobbs and his gallant ship-mates, is fully expressed in the American official account. Had Mr. Thomson, instead of inventing a story of his own, paid due respect to lieutenant Conkling's letter, he would not have stated, that "the British general furnished captain Dobbs, of the royal navy, with a suffi-

* See Plate I.

† James's Naval Occur. p. 289.

t. App. No. 34.



dent number of *troops*, to man *nine large* boats, which were completely fitted to attack the three schooners, the Somers, Porcupine, and Ohio, then lying at anchor off the fort."* Nor would he have told the still more glaring falsehood, that " the Porcupine," against whose commander the American lieutenant so justly complains, " succeeded in beating them off." Had not the rapidity of the current, driven the two schooners, after their cables had been cut, past, and a considerable distance beyond, the Porcupine, that vessel would have shared the fate of her two companions. The force of the American schooners, in guns, men, and size, and the trifling loss on both sides, will be found in our naval volume. 1- These two valuable prizes were taken to Frenchman's creek ; and as many of the brave fellows surviving, as were not required to remain on board, hastened, with their leader, to general Drummond's camp.

The success of captain Dobbs's daring exploit induced general Drummond, on the morning of the 13th, preparatory to the grand assault upon the works at Fort-Erie, to open his batteries.; which. consisted of one long iron, and two short brass 24-pounders, one long 18-pounder, one 24-pound carronade, and a 10-inch mortar. Although this cannonade was continued for two days, the American editors acknowledge no other casualties than 45 men killed or wounded.

* Sketches of the War, p. 315. t James's Nay. Occur. p. 391.

Every arrangement having been made, the 8th, and De Watteville's regiments, with the light companies of the 89th and 100th regiments, and a detachment of artillery, the whole column somewhat under 1300 men,* and commanded by lieutenant-colonel Fischer, of De ViTatteville's, marched, at two o'clock on the morning of the 15th of August, from a position which they had previously occupied, towards the enemy's intrenchments at Snake hill. As soon as the head of the column had approached the abattis, a heavy fire was opened upon it by the American 21st and 23d regiments, and by one 18 and two 6-pounders, and a 4-inch howitzer, posted in a strong redoubt. The letter of an American gentleman at Buffaloe describes the onset, thus : " The enemy approached, with bayonets charged, and *guns without flints*, nearly surrounded the piquet, and pursued them so closely, as to enter the abattis with them, and got in the' rear of the redoubt." " The scaling-ladders were too short, and destruction was dealt on every side among them." t Mr. Thomson says : " With scaling ladders, of no more than 16 feet in length, he could not possibly throw his troops upon a battery of about 25 feet high, and his second attempt, equally furious as the first, met with

Sketches of the War, p. 309.

t Washington-city Gazette, Extra. Aug. 18.

no better success. Convinced of his inability to: get possession of the battery, and feeling the deadly effects of the incessant showers of grape, which were thrown upon him, he determined, in his next effort, to pass the point of the abattis, by wading breast-deep into the lake, to which the works were open. In this attempt, also, he was unsuccessful, nearly 200 of his men being either killed or drowned, and the remainder precipitately falling back."* According to colonel Fischer's report,t it was not intentionally, but in marching too near the lake, that the troops got into the water. The darkness of the morning, added to the ignorance of the way, might well entangle the men among the rocks; and the incessant showers of grape and musketry, which they had no means of returning, threw them into confusion. This alone, without the insufficiency of the scaling-ladders,—a piece of important information, which we gain only from the American accounts,—sufficiently accounts for the entire failure of the attack, made by the right British column upon the southern extremity of the American works.

•The centre British column, at the head of which was lieutenant-colonel Drummond, of the 104th, consisted of the flank companies of the • 1st, and 104th (the latter reduced to about 80 men) regiments, and a party of seamen and

* Sketches of the War, p. 309.,

+ App. No. 36.

marines, in all,—not as Mr. Thomson says, "700,"* but 190 rank and file. The left column, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Scott, of the 103d regiment, was composed of that regiment, 500 strong, supported by the flank companies of the royal Scots, mustering, altogether, not " 800,"** but 6.50 rank and file. As ..the proceedings of these two columns are much more fully detailed in the American, than in the British account, we shall transcribe nearly the whole of the former, deferring to the conclusion, our own remarks upon such inaccuracies as it may contain.

" The attack from the centre and left columns," says Mr. Thomson, " was reserved until the contest became very animated between colonel Fischer's column, and the troops upon the left. From the line of defences, between the Douglass battery and the fort, and from those in front of the garrison, lieutenant-general 4 Drummond supposed reinforcements would be drawn to the aid of the southern extremity of the works ; and, with this view, had given greater strength to his right, than to his other columns, and intended to avail himself of the consequent weakened state, of the north and south-east angles of the American post. The piquet being driven in, the approach of lieutenant-colonel

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The centre British column, at the head of which was lieutenant-colonel Drummond, of the 104th, consisted of the flank companies of the 41st, and 104th (the latter reduced to about 50 men) regiments, and a party of seamen and

* Sketches of the War, p. 309., + App. No. 36.

marines, in all,—not as Mr. Thomson says, "700," but 190 rank and file. The left column, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Scott, of the 103d regiment, was composed of that regiment, 500 strong, supported by the flank companies of the royal Scots, mustering, altogether, not "800," but 650 rank and file. As the proceedings of these two columns are much more fully detailed in the American, than in the British account, we shall transcribe nearly the whole of the former, deferring to the conclusion, our own remarks upon such inaccuracies as it may contain.

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* Sketches of the War, p. 310.

Drummond was heard from the ravine, and colonel Scott's column at the same time advanced along the margin of the water. From the salient bastion of the fort, captain Williams immediately opened his fire upon the centre column, whilst the approach of colonel Scott was attempted to be checked by the Douglass battery, and captains Boughton and Harding's New York and Pennsylvania volunteers, on its right ; the 9th infantry, under captain Foster, on its left ; and a 6-pounder, planted at that point, under the management of colonel M^r Ree. At 50 yards distance from the line, the enemy's left column made a momentary pause, and instantly recoiled from the fire of the cannon and musketry. But the centre column, having advanced upon every assailable point of time fort, in defiance of the rapid and heavy discharges of the artillery, and having ascended the parapet, by means of a large number of scaling-ladders, its officers called out to the line, extending to the lake, to desist firing ;—an artifice which succeeded so well, that the Douglass battery, and the infantry, supposing the order to proceed from the garrison, suspended their fire, until the deception was discovered. The left column, in the mean time, recovered from its confusion, and was led up to a second charge, from which it was again repulsed, before it had an opportunity

nity of planting the scaling-ladders, and with the loss of its commander, and upwards of one-third of its men.

" whilst the second attempt was in operation, the centre column was, with great difficulty, thrown back from the salient bastion ; and the troops within the fort were quickly reinforced from general Ripley's brigade, and general Porter's volunteers. But, lieutenant-colonel Drummond, actuated by a determination (not to be overcome by a single repulse) to force an entrance into the garrison, and momentarily expecting the reserve to be ordered up by the lieutenant-general, returned to the assault a second and a third time. By the gallant efforts, however, of major Hindman and his artillery, and the infantry detachment of major Trimble, he was, each time, more signally repulsed than before ; and colonel Scott's column having withdrawn from the action, upon the fall of its leader, lieutenant Douglass was busily engaged in giving such a direction to the guns of his battery, as to cut off the communication between Drummond's column, and the reserve of lieutenant-colonel Tucker. The new bastions which had been commenced for the enlargement of the old Fort Erie, not being yet completed, the only opposition which could be given to the enemy's approaches upon those points, was by means of small arms. The batteries of captain

Biddle and captain Fanning (formerly Pontaine's) in the works intervening between Towsen's battery and the fort, were therefore opened upon the enemy with great vivacity, and his advances from the plane frequently checked by those gallant and meritorious officers.

After this third repulse, lieutenant-colonel Drummond, taking advantage of the darkness: of the morning, and of the heavy columns of smoke, which concealed all objects from the view of the garrison, moved his troops silently round the ditch, repeated his charge, and re-ascended his ladders with such velocity, as to gain footing on the parapet, before any effectual opposition could be made. Being in the very midst of his men, he directed them to charge vigorously with their pikes and bayonets, and to show no quarter to any yielding soldier of the garrison. This order was executed with the utmost rapidity, and the most obstinate previous parts of the engagement, formed no kind of parallel to the violence and desperation of the present conflict. Not all the efforts of major Hindman and his command, nor major Trimble's infantry, nor a detachment of riflemen under captain Birdsall, who had posted himself in the ravelin, opposite the gateway of the fort, could dislodge the determined and intrepid enemy from the bastion; though the deadly effects of their fire prevented his approaches

beyond it. It was now in his entire possession. The loss of their leader, colonel Drummond, did not check the impetuosity of the enemy's troops, and they continued the use of their pikes and small arms until the day broke, and repulsed several furious charges made upon them by detachments of the garrison. The approach of day-light enabled both parties to give a more certain direction to their fire. The artillerists had already severely suffered; but, with those that remained, and a reinforcing detachment of infantry, major Hindman renewed his attempts to drive the British 41st and 104th from the bastion. Captain Birdsall, at the same moment, drawing out his riflemen from the ravelin, rushed through the gateway into the fort, and joining in the charge, received an accidental wound from one of his own men, just as the attack failed. Detachments from the 1st brigade, under captain Forster, were then introduced over the interior bastion, to the assistance of major Hindman; these detachments were to charge at a different point of the salient, or exterior bastion, and were handsomely led on by captain Forster, and the assistant inspector-general, major Hall. This charge also failed; the passage up the bastion not being wide enough to admit more than three men abreast. It was frequently, however, repeated; and, though it sometimes occasioned much slaughter among

the enemy's infantry, was invariably repulsed. By the operations of the artillery, from a demi-bastion in the fort, and the continual blaze of fire from the small-arms, added to the effects of the repeated charges, the enemy's column, being considerably cut up, and many of its principal officers wounded, began to recoil ; which, being observed by the besieged party, and the contest having entirely subsided on the left flank of the works, reinforcements were brought up from that point, and many of the enemy's troops, in a few moments, thrown from the bastion.

" The British reserve was now expected to come up : _the guns at the Douglass battery had by this time been turned so as to enfilade that column in its approach ; captain Fanning was already playing upon the enemy with great effect ; and captain Biddle was ordered to post a piece of artillery, so as to enfilade the salient glacis. This piece was served with uncommon vivacity, notwithstanding captain Biddle had been severely wounded in the shoulder. All these preparations being made for an effectual operation upon the enemy's remaining column, and from the dreadful carnage which had already taken place, it was scarcely supposed that he would continue the assault much longer. But 3 or 400 men of the reserve, were about to rush upon the parapet to the assistance of those recoiling, when a tremendous and dreadful

explosion took place, under the platform, which carried away the bastion, and all who happened to be upon it. The enemy's reserve immediately fell back, and in a short time the contest terminated in the entire defeat of the assailants, who returned with the shattered columns to their encampment. On retiring from the assault, according to the report of general Gaines, the British army left upon the field 222 killed, among whom were 14 officers of distinction ; 174 wounded ; and 186 prisoners, making a total of 582. Others, who were slightly wounded, had been carried to their works. The official account of lieutenant-general Drummond does not acknowledge so large a number in killed, but makes the aggregate loss much greater. His adjutant-general reported, 57 killed ; 309 wounded ; and 539 missing—in all 905. t The American loss amounted to 17 killed ; 56 wounded ; and one lieutenant, who was thrown over the parapet, while defending the bastion, and 10 privates, prisoners ;—in all 81 men."*

We are certainly much indebted to the writer who furnished Mr. Thomson with this very full account. " The tremendous and dreadful explosion, which carried away the bastion, and all who happened to be upon it," and which, it is believed, was merely accidental, as satisfactorily explains, why the attack failed upon the right and centre, as the want of flints, and the

* Sketches of the War, p. 312. + App. No. 37,

shortness of the scalingadders, upon the left, of the American works at Fort-Erie. If the " British 41st and 104th," as whole regiments, could extort a compliment for what they were supposed to have done, what would the Americans have said, had they known, that " the determined and intrepid enemy,": who could not be dislodged from the bastion, were the flank-companies *only* of those regiments, assisted by a party of seamen and marines,* the whole numbering but. 190 rank and file ?

By an unaccountable inadvertency, Mr. Thomson has overlooked the statement he gave of the British force, just previous to the attack. We then had, he says, " 5352 men." Let us see how he disposes of this force at the time of the assault. Colonel Fischer's column he states at 1300, colonel Drummond's, at 700, and colonel Scott's, at 800, in all, 2800; leaving 2532 men, for the reserve, which consisted, he says, of " the royals, another part of De Watteville's regiment, the Glengarians, and the incorporated militia, under lieutenant-colonel Tucker."† Taking the outside of all the American estimates of the detailed parts of this reserve, we cannot make it amount to more than 1200 men ;—what then become of the remaining 1352 ? The fact is, the reserve amounted to 1000 men only; and consisted of the battalion-companies of the royal Scots, six

All wounded, App. No. 35. † Sketches of the War, p. 308.

companies of the 41st, the Glengarry regiment, and the incorporated militia. So that the British force engaged in the assault upon Fort-Erie, did not exceed 2140 men.

In general Gaines's first letter, not a word appears about the " tremendous and dreadful explosion." The bastion, says the American general, " was regained at the point of the bayonet." We wish, for his sake, that we had his second letter to refer to. At all events, Mr. O'Connor, who professes to compile " carefully from official documents," is equally silent about the explosion ; declaring, to the same effect as the general, that " the bastion was re-taken by the greatest display of courage and exertion." ‡ May not such a catastrophe, as the blowing into the air of, according to an American letter-writer, " 200 British," have merited the notice, if not have awakened the sympathy, of the reverend Dr. Smith ? Here follows his whole account :—" General Drummond, on the 15th of August, attempted to storm the fort, but was repulsed with the loss of 600 men, one-half of whom were slain. The assault, and defence were of the same desperate character with the battles of Chippeway and Niagara ; and could not fail to inspire the British officers and soldiers, with high ideas of the discipline and courage of the American army." †. Yet, when

App. No. 38. + History of the War, p. 260.

‡ History of the United States, Vol. III. p. 313.

200 Americans, along with general Pike, were blown up at the capture of York, doctor Smith could find room to tell us, that they were "terribly mangled;" and Mr. O'Connor himself there gave a very circumstantial account of the "tremendous explosion." Two short extracts from Mr. O'Connor's book will shew, that he was almost as much "gladdened" as general Gaines, at our discomfiture before Fort-Erie. "The assault," says he, "was of that desperate nature, that was calculated to rub away the stains of former defeats, to resuscitate the sinking charms of an assumed invincibility, and save the British general from contempt, and perhaps disgrace."—"The invincibles were, however, destined to experience another defeat; and the Americans added another wreath to the laurels, with which they were already so plentifully blessed." 1;

According to some letters from sir George Prevost to lieutenant-general Drummond, which were intercepted by the Americans, and afterwards published in all the journals, both American and British, the lieutenant-general was blamed for making the attack; sir George adding: "It is not in reproach of its failure that I observe to you, that night-attacks made with heavy troops, are, in my opinion, very objectionable." How far this may be the case, we will not pretend to decide; but we think there appears, in both of

* History of the United States, Vol. III. p. 230.

t History of the War, p. 83. I Ibid. p. 260.

sir George's letters, though somewhat obscurely expressed, sufficient to account for the "hesitation" and "consternation" of the right column. In one letter, he says, alluding to De Watteville's regiment: "I am told they were deprived of their flints." In the other, he says: "It is to be inferred, from lieutenant-colonel Fischer's report, and your statement, that the right column was not sufficiently prepared for the obstacles it had to surmount, in attaining the point of attack."—What can this mean, but that the scaling-ladders were too short. And yet neither general Drummond's, nor colonel Fischer's, official report contains a word about scaling-ladders; nor, indeed, in the *present shape* of those letters, any thing from which an inference can be drawn, "that the right column was not sufficiently prepared for the obstacles it had to surmount." had the British right possessed the means of scaling the works, the enemy's right would not have been so strongly reinforced, nor colonel Drummond's column been delayed at the fatal bastion; and, consequently, the assault upon Fort-Erie, although "performed in the dark," would have been crowned with success.

The Americans **will** not allow us to give an uninterrupted detail of open and honorable warfare. Among several petty outrages upon private property, one that occurred on Lake Erie is too heinous to pass unnoticed. On the 16th of August, a party of about 100 Americans

and Indians landed at Port-Talbot on that lake; and robbed 50 heads of families of all their horses, and of every article of household furniture, and wearing apparel, belonging to them. The number of individuals who were thus thrown naked and destitute upon the world, amounted to 49 men, 37 women,—diree of the latter,, and two of the former, nearly 70 years Of age,—and 148 children. A great many of the more respectable inhabitants were not only robbed, but carried off as prisoners : among them, a member of the house of assembly, Mr. Barnwell, though ill of the fever and ague. An authenticated account of this most atrocious proceeding, delivered in by colonel Talbot, the owner of the settlement, stands upon the records of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada ;" yet not a whisper on the subject has escaped any one American historian.

Early in the spring of 1814, when general Winder left Quebec for the, United States, on his parole, he was understood to be the bearer, from sir George Prevost, of *another* proposition for an armistice. The American government very gladly published the tact ; if only to show to the world, who was the first to cry out. At the same time, the annoyance felt from the British fleet in the Chesapeake, which was not, like the river St. Lawrence, shut up during the winter months, rendered desirable, a cessation of hostilities by water, as well as land. A flag of

truce was, therefore, despatched to the British admiral, to know if he had authority to extend the armistice in the manner required. Sir Alexander Cochrane very readily answered,—that he had been sent out to fight, not to negotiate ; and thus the affair ended.

Previous to general Winder's departure from Quebec, a convention was entered into between him and colonel Baynes, the adjutant-general of the Canadas, and, on the, 15th of April, confirmed by sir George Prevost ; stipulating, that all prisoners of war, except the hostages then in detention, should be mutually exchanged and delivered up, with all convenient expedition, so as to be able to serve, and carry arms, on the 15th of the ensuing May. In immediate fulfilment of our part of the agreement, all American prisoners in Canada and Nova Scotia were released from confinement ; and many of the officers were actually engaged in the battles of July and August, upon the Niagara-frontier. This agreement for a mutual exchange was hailed with joy by the British officers and privates, taken on Lake Erie, and at the battle of the Moravian-town ; and who were still eking out their days in Frankfort penitentiary,* and other prisons in the western country. So shamefully, however, did the American government behave on the occasion, that these poor fellows, who had been so long and so rigorously confined, were not

* See Vol. I. p. X98.