

too limited for a big job of this kind. We had no stores of any description for such an undertaking—no boats, provisions, arms, nor ammunition.

When Col. McDouall, in the course of the day, became aware of my success, he was much pleased, and offered me any military stores he could spare from his scanty stock. This good news inspired our ambition. I was made a captain, mounted a red coat, mustered a couple of epaulettes and an old rusty sword, with a red cock feather adorning my round hat. I was at once a captain of pompous dimensions, and lucky it was for Napoleon and his hosts, that they were beyond the reach of Anderson's Mississippi Volunteers.

I was an entire stranger to the commandant, and it would not have been soldier-like in him to have entrusted valuable military stores to a man without credentials. So the command of the expedition was placed nominally under a volunteer officer from Lower Canada, Lieut. Col. McKay, whose entire knowledge of war matters consisted of his predilection for rum. Well, the island of Mackinaw was, in fact, under blockade, and in daily expectation of a formidable attack. It would, therefore, have been unwise in the Commandant to have granted us very many supplies from his limited stores; but knowing the vast importance of securing the services of the northwestern tribes, and witnessing also the devoted enthusiasm of a jolly band of Canadian voyageurs, embodied in so short a time—and that, too, by an old volunteer of the Revolutionary War, in defense of their country, inspired him with confidence in us, and we were joyfully mustered into service as a part of his command.

Col. McDouall assigned three gun-boats for our use—open vessels which had been constructed at Nottawasawgun the winter before; one having a platform near the prow for a gun. A brass three-pounder, and such other stores as he could prudently spare, also one artillery man for a bombardier, and a worn-out soldier from the veteran battalion. Finally we were ready, and started, about the twentieth of June, 1814, on our expedition against Prairie du Chien, with many a cheer, and hearty wish, for our success. We made all haste to get out of the reach of the expected enemies' fleet from below. At Green Bay some of the