

suspected by Dickson, and their hostility to the British now became open and avowed. His instructions to his officers during his absence had been simply to keep the Indians quiet, and he apparently experienced much difficulty during the winter in regaining his lost influence over some of the tribes. The Menomonees and Winnebagoes, however, were as warmly attached to him as ever, and formed a sort of body-guard upon which he could securely depend. The letters printed in volumes x. and xi. of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections* show that for some time he was in serious apprehension of an attack from the Pottawattomies. The old feud between the Chippewas and the Sioux burst once more into open hostilities and bloodshed. Numbers of the Indians near the Mississippi had already made their peace with the Americans, and those who still remained faithful to their compact with him were destitute and starving. For some time he himself seems to have been in actual fear of perishing from hunger. His correspondence in the midst of these dangers and difficulties shows no sign of despondence and he continued to predict that they would have good news when the Montreal express came in. The good news did not reach him until the twentieth of March, but then it must have exceeded his utmost expectations, for the gazettes sent him contained information of the surprise of Fort Niagara and the destruction of Buffalo, of the battle of Chrysler's Farm, of the signal defeat of Napoleon at Dresden, and of the capture of the fortress of Pampeluna and San Sebastian by the Duke of Wellington. At the same time he learned that a reinforcement for the garrison of Mackinac was on its way, but that an expedition against that post was said to be fitting out at Detroit. Accordingly he began to collect the Menomonees and Winnebagoes for its relief, rather regretting at the same time that this prevented him from attempting a dash at St. Louis. During the last week in April he made a flying visit to Prairie du Chien, and then immediately proceeded to Mackinac with all the Indians he could muster.

Early in December, 1813, a detachment from Detroit had