

goods destined for us, which saved our lives as well as many other nations."

In May, Fort Gratiot was built and garrisoned for the purpose of overawing the Indians of Michigan and cutting off all communication betwixt them and the garrison of Mackinac, and an expedition from St. Louis under Governor Clark ascended the Mississippi and took possession of Prairie du Chien. Capt. Francis Michael Dease, who held the place for Dickson, with a few men of the Michigan Fencibles, retired on its approach without firing a shot, and the Sacs sued for peace. Dickson had set out for Mackinac three weeks before, taking with him eighty-five Winnebagoes, one hundred and twenty Menomonees, and one hundred Sioux.

On the eighteenth of May, Lieut. Colonel Robert McDouall arrived at Mackinac with two weak companies of the Royal Newfoundland, ten artillerymen, and a few sailors, and assumed command of the garrison. Dickson soon after came in with two hundred Indians and established his headquarters there as "Agent and Superintendent of the Indians on the Mississippi." Tidings of the capture of Prairie du Chien soon reached them, accompanied by most urgent appeals for support from the Indians in its vicinity, and within a week a small but well-equipped expedition was sent off under Lieut.-Colonel McKay, a partner in the Northwest Company, for its recovery. About one-half of the Indians assembled on the island were detached by Dickson on this service, and when the American squadron finally hove in sight only a hundred and forty remained to share in its defense. In the operations which resulted in the repulse of Colonel Croghan's expedition, he took a distinguished part, and the assault of a band of Menomonees led by Tomah under Dickson's direction, decided the fate of the day. On the third of September following, he participated in the successful attack upon the schooner "Tigress" by a division of boats despatched from the island under Lieutenant Worsley. The last event terminated the blockade of the island, which had continued for more than a month, and virtually concluded the war in that quarter.