

BOUQUET'S CAMPAIGN BOUQUET'S ARMY AND ITS CAREER.

Col. Henry Bouquet was a native of Switzerland, of the Canton of Berne. He first held a commission in the army of Sardinia, and afterwards entered the service of the States of Holland. When the corps of Royal American were organized in the French war, he entered the English service as Lieutenant-Colonel of that Regiment. In the provinces, great confidence was reposed in his bravery and skill. As a military man he was distinguished for activity of mind, a great facility of resource, and an unusual power of adaptation to the circumstances with which he was surrounded. And these qualities fitted him in an eminent degree for the practice of the new and often perplexing tactics of Indian warfare.

With much difficulty, Colonel Bouquet collected of the remains of the forty-second and seventy-seventh regiments, a force of about five-hundred men; brave, indeed, but enfeebled by disease, and unused to savage warfare. Sixty of these were so weak, that they were conveyed in baggage wagons, only for the relief of the garrison. Orders were dispatched to collect stores and provisions on the frontier, but when Bouquet reached Carlisle on the 1st of July, no provisions had been collected.

The whole settlement was in panic. The country was deserted, and the wretches and famishing people had crowded into the town for protection. Instead of receiving supplies from them, Bouquet was obliged to share with them his own scanty stores. Eighteen days were spent in collecting stores and means of transportation, and the army commenced its perilous march, with the worst forebodings of the people, through the wilderness. The route lay through an unbroken forest for two hundred miles, infested with savages far more numerous and more determined than those that destroyed the ill-fated army of Braddock. The army of Bouquet was less than those who fell on that bloody day, and the people of the border, without hope of success, only waited for the defeat of the army to desert the country, and fly beyond the Susquehanna.

The army pursued the route opened by General Forbes, five years before, and on their march relieved Forts Bedford and Ligonier, both beleaguered by the Indians. Less than a day's march west of Ligonier, by the dangerous defile of Turtle creek, Bouquet determined to march to Bushy run, and rest there until night, and then pass Turtle creek under cover of the darkness. When within half a mile of Bushy run, the army was suddenly attacked in front; a charge was made and the enemy dispersed. Instantly the attack was renewed in the rear, and again the assailants were beaten off. Again and again the attack was made, and the Indians were driven back, only to renew their assault. Sheltered behind trees, the Indians poured a constant fire upon the army on all sides, and were so disposed as to assault the line the moment it wavered. To receive them, the troops were disposed in a circle around their baggage, exposed indeed to the constant fire of an invisible foe, but maintained their position with the steady valor of disciplined troops.

Thus the contest raged for seven hours; darkness suspended hostilities, and the troops maintained their position, and lay on their arms during the night. At the dawn of day, the attack was renewed with great fury, and continued without intermission until nearly noon. It was impossible for the army to move, and equally impossible to make any impression on the enemy, and there seemed to be no other prospect before the troops, than that of gradually melting away under the fire of the invisible foe. The genius of Bouquet was equal to the emergency. Two companies were ordered to fall within the circle and march backward, as if commencing the retreat; two other companies were detailed to lie in ambuscade in advance of the army. The thin line of troops took possession of the deserted space, and were drawn nearer to the center. These movements were mistaken by the Indians for a retreat, and made a furious assault on the line. The two companies that had been ordered to the rear, suddenly wheeled and poured a volley on them in flank, and then charged them with the bayonet. The Indians were completely surprised and fled in disorder before them. Suddenly the ambuscade arose and poured their fire upon the crowd of savages, and joined the pursuit. The rout was complete and the remaining savages abandoned their positions and fled. About sixty Indians were slain. One hundred and sixteen privates and eight officers of the army were killed and a great number wounded.

After the battle, the army marched without interruption twenty-five miles to Fort Pitt, relieved the garrison and supplied the post with arms, ammunition and provisions, and secured it against the danger of a siege, or of falling into the hands of the savages.