

BOON'S LICK TIMES.

"ERROR CEASES TO BE DANGEROUS, WHEN REASON IS LEFT FREE TO COMBAT IT."—JEFFERSON.

BY CYRIL C. CADY.

FAYETTE, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1810.

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HARRISON'S INVASION OF CANADA.

The following is the "general order" of the 27th of September, which we promised in our last. In its lucid minuteness, the reader will discover how it was that Harrison preserved, or rather created, the most perfect order in an army composed emphatically of raw troops. It will, moreover, although written in the wilderness, compare advantageously, in point of style and diction, with the best cabinet paper ever prepared by Martin Van Buren, or any other sort of hand of the accomplished old General. Yet this is the man who is denounced as an imbecile, and who recently heard a man, of some consequence among the Van Burenites, denounce for having been absent, and leaving all this to be done by Governor Shelby!

GENERAL ORDER.

"As it is the intention of the general to land the army on the enemy's coast, the following will be the order of embarkation, of march, and of battle. The right wing of the army will be composed of the Kentucky volunteers under command of his excellency Governor Shelby, acting as major general—the left wing, of the light corps of lieutenant colonel Ball, and the brigades of general M'Arthur and Cass. This arrangement is made with a view to the localities of the ground, on which the troops will have to act, and the composition of the enemy's force, and is calculated in marching up the lake or strait, to place the regular troops in the open ground on the left, where it is probable they will be opposed by British regulars, and the Kentucky volunteers in the woods, which probably will be occupied by the enemy's militia and Indians. When the signal is given for putting to shore, the corps of lieutenant colonel Ball will precede the left wing, and the regiment of volunteer riflemen under colonel Simrall the right wing. These corps will land with the utmost celerity consistent with the preservation of good order, and as soon as landed will take the most favorable position for annoying the enemy, and covering the embarkation of the troops of the line. General Cass's brigade will follow lieutenant colonel Ball's corps, and general Calmes's regiment of colonel Simrall. The other regiments will follow and form in succession after those which precede them, the right wing with its left in front, displaying to the right, and the left wing with its right in front displaying to the left. The brigades of general King, Allen, and Smith will form successively to the right of general Calmes. The brigades of general M'Arthur and Chiles will form the reserve, under the immediate command of general M'Arthur. The general will command in person the brigades of Cass and Calmes, assisted by major-general Henry. His excellency Governor Shelby will have the immediate command of the three brigades on the right, assisted by major general Desha. As soon as the troops disembark, the boats are to be immediately sent back to the fleet. It will be observed, that the order of landing here prescribed is somewhat that of direct echelon, displayed in line upon the advanced corps of the right and left wings. It is the intention of the general, however, that all the troops which are provided with boats should land in as quick succession as possible; and the general officers commanding towards the extremities of the line, are authorized to deviate from this arrangement, to counteract any movement of the enemy, by landing any part of their commands previous to the forming of the corps which are herein directed to precede them. The corps of lieutenant colonel Ball, and the volunteer regiment of colonel Simrall, will maintain the position they occupy on landing, until the troops of the line are formed to support them; they will then retire through the intervals of the line, or to the flanks, and form in the rear of the line. A detachment of artillery with six pounder, four pounder, and howitzer, will be sent on to the advanced light corps, to be ready to be landed in reserve and landed at such points as major Wood may direct. The point of landing for the reserve under brigadier general M'Arthur cannot now be designated. It will be made to support any part of the line which may require aid, or be formed on the flanks as circumstances may require. The arrangements for landing the troops will be made entirely under the direction of an officer of the navy, whose name is hereby designated as commanding the boats, and who will be responsible for the safe landing of the troops, and the covering of the vessels. The troops being landed on the enemy driven off, or not opposing the landing, the army will change its front to the left, and form in order of battle in the following manner. The two brigades of regular troops, and two of the volunteers, to be formed in two lines at right angles to the shore of the lake. The brigade of general M'Arthur and Calmes to form the front line, and the regular troops still on the left, and that flank resting on the lake shore. The distance between the two lines will be three hundred yards. The remaining three volunteer brigades will be drawn up in a single line of two ranks, at right angles to the lines in front, their head on the right of the front line, forming a crotchet en patience with that line, and extending beyond the second line. The corps of lieutenant colonel Ball will form the advance of the left wing, at the same distance of 300 yards, and colonel Simrall's regiment that of the right wing at the same distance. Some light pieces of artillery will be placed in the road leading up the lake, and at such other points as major Wood may direct. When the order is given for marching, the first and second lines will advance by files from the heads of companies, or in other words those two lines will form two columns marching by their flanks, the companies at entire distances. The three brigades on the right flank will be faced on the left and marched forwards, the head of this column still forming en patience with the front line. It is probable that the two brigades of the front line will extend from the lakes some distance into the woods on the right flank, and it is desirable that it should be so; but should it be otherwise, and the crotchet or angle be in the open ground, governor M'Arthur will immediately extend the front line to the right by adding to it as many companies of the leading brigade of the flank column as will bring the angle and consequently the left column itself completely within the woods. It is to be presumed that the enemy will make their attack upon them on their right march, that their regular troops will form their right upon the lake, their militia occupy the ground between their regulars and the woods, and that the Indians will use a flank attack from the woods. The formation herein prescribed is intended to resist an arrangement of this kind. Should the general's conjecture on this subject prove correct, as it must be evident that the right of the enemy cannot be turned, so that wing the best of his troops will be placed, it will be proper to refuse him our left, and direct our principal effort to uncover the left flank of his regulars, by driving off the militia. In the event here supposed, it will therefore be proper to bring to a halt a part of the whole, of general Cass's brigade to assist the charge to be made by

general Calmes, or that the former should change positions with the brigade of volunteers in the second line. Should the general think it safe to order the whole of Cass's brigade to assist the charge made by general Calmes, or that the former should change positions with the volunteers in the second line, or should the general think it safe to order the whole of Cass's brigade to the right, without replacing it with another, general Cass will march to the right, formed in oblique columns of companies. It will be the business of general M'Arthur, in the event of his being refused, to watch the motions of the enemy, and with the assistance of the artillery, prevent its front line at least from retreating the progress of our right. Should the enemy's militia be defeated, the brigade of ours in advance will immediately wheel upon the flank of the British regulars, and general M'Arthur will then advance and attack them in front. In the mean time his excellency governor Shelby can use his brigade in reserve of the second line, to extend the flank line from its front or left, or to reinforce any weak part of the line. In all cases where troops in advance are obliged to retire through files which are advancing to support them, it will be done by companies in files, which will retire through the intervals of the advancing line, and immediately form in the rear. The light troops will be particularly governed by this direction. The disposition of the troops in the right flank, is such as the commanding general thinks best calculated to resist an attack from the Indians, which is only to be expected from that quarter. His excellency governor Shelby, will, however, use his discretion, in making any alteration which his experience and judgment may dictate.

"Lieutenant colonel Ball, colonel Simrall, and the officers commanding on the flank line, are to send out small detachments in advance of the two former corps, and to the flank of the latter. Should they discover the enemy in force, immediate notice will be sent to the lines. The general commanding on the spot will immediately order the signal for forming in order of battle, which is the best to be used. All signals will be immediately repeated by all the drums of the line. The signal for the whole to halt is, by the retreat. Drums will be directed along the line at the heads of companies, and to occasionally be given to regulate their march. Lieutenant colonel Ball and Simrall are to keep the general constantly informed of the discoveries made by the advanced parties, and when it shall become necessary for their corps to retire, they will form on the flank, or in the rear of general M'Arthur and Calmes's brigades, and receive the orders of their brigadiers respectively.

"WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON."

The whole embarked from the Middle Sister for the Canada Shore on the 27th, and presented in its denouement one of the finest occasions for the pencil of the artist, and the interest of the scene was not a little awakened by the momentary expectation of the opening of the enemy's fire from the shore. No opposition, however, was made to the landing of our troops, and commander Peary frequently expressed his admiration of the promptness and discipline displayed on the occasion. Just at the moment of embarkation, the general issued along the line of boats the following laconic and impressive order:

"Head-Quarters, on board the Ariel,"

September 27, 1813.
The general orders his brave troops to remember that they are the sons of sires whose glory is immortal. That they are to fight for the rights of their insolent country, whilst their opponents combat for the unjust pretensions of a monster.

"Kentuckians! remember the river Raisin; but remember it only whilst the victory is suspended. The revenge of a soldier cannot be gratified upon a fallen enemy. By command, ROBERT BUTLER, A. Adjutant General."

From the Stockholder.

HISTORY VERSUS THE "OLD HICKORY."

Our readers are aware that a little newspaper with this title is published in Illinois, and patronized by the office holders here. As it is copied from by its mate in this place, for the purpose of appearing the character of General Harrison, we propose to show to what degree of credit his state claims are entitled, by contrasting them with the history of the times of which it pretends to speak. This done, and we leave the office-holders to all the advantage which such sheets can give in amongst intelligent and upright members of our party. A correspondent informs us that in one of the numbers sent to him by an office holder, General Harrison is accused of having allowed the Indians to "pick his campment and catch him napping at Tippecanoe." The following, from McAlister's History of the war, speaks the words of an unprejudiced historian: "In 1811, when no motives for misrepresentation existed. It felt as the talking heroes of the present day, who are eloquent as to the way the battle ought to have been fought, and who are so much wiser in the grocery or by the fire side, than the pupil of Wayne was on the ground. As Mr. McAlester is now one of Martin Van Buren's Ministers abroad, we presume the anecdote would be better than any other with the office-holders, and therefore copied from his book, instead of either of the several others before us.

"Let the adherents of the grey grown patriot read it carefully, and hide their heads in shame. We copy from page 27, as follows:

"An idea was propagated by the enemies of general Harrison, after the battle of Tippecanoe, that the Indians had forced him to encamp in a place, chosen by them as suitable for the attack; they invited Governor Calmes to examine the environs of Wayne's camp, after examining all the environs of the town; and when the army of general Hopkins was there in the following year, they all united in the opinion, that a better spot to resist Indians, was not to be found in the whole country.

The order given to the army, in the event of a night attack, was for each corps to maintain its ground at all hazards till relieved. The drums were directed to beat a charge, to parade dismounted, with their swords on their pistols in their hands, and to wait for orders. The guard for the night consisted of two captains' commands of 42 men 4 non-commissioned officers each; and two subalterns' guards of twenty men and non-commissioned officers—the whole under the command of a field officer of the day.

It was the constant practice of general Harrison to call up the troops an hour before day, and keep them under arms till it was light. After a march in the morning the governor, general Wells, colonel Owen, and colonel Davison had all risen, and the governor was going to issue his orders for packing the army; when the treacherous Indians

had crept up so near the sentries, as to hear them challenge when relieved. They intended to rush upon the sentries and kill them before they could fire; but one of them discovered an Indian creeping towards him in the grass, and fired. This was immediately followed by the Indian yell, and a desperate charge upon the left flank.

The whole number killed, with those who died soon of their wounds, was upwards of fifty; the wounded were about double that number. Governor Harrison himself narrowly escaped, the hair on his head being cut by a ball.

The Indians left 28 warriors dead on the field, and buried several others in the town, which with those who must have died of their wounds, would make their loss at least as great as that of the Americans. The troops under the command of Governor Harrison, of every description, amounted on the day before the battle, to something more than 500. The contrary force, that had been at the Prophet's town, through the preceding summer, was about 400. But they were joined a few days before the action, by all the Kickapooes from the Prairie, and by many bands of Potawatomes from the Illinois river, and the St. Josephs of Lake Michigan. They evacuated their number after the battle, to have been 600; but the traders, who had a great opportunity of knowing, made them at least 800, and some as many as 1000. However, it is certain, that no victory was ever before obtained over the northern Indians, where the numbers were any thing like equal. The number of killed too was greater, than was ever before known.

A greater degree of confidence and personal attachment has rarely been found in any army towards its commander, than existed in this; nor has there been many battles in which the dependence of the army on its leader was so unreservedly placed. During the whole action the governor was constantly on the line, and always repaired to the point which was most hardily pressed. The reinforcements drawn on only from the points most secure, were conducted by himself and formed on the spot, where their services were most wanted. The officers and men who believed that their ultimate success depended on his safety, warmly reconstituted against his so constantly exposing himself. Upon one occasion he was approaching an angle of the line, against which the Indians were advancing with horrible yells, heard of the dragons seized the bridle of his horse, and earnestly entreated that he would not go there; but the governor putting spurs to his horse, pushed on to the point of attack, where the enemy were received with firmness and driven back.

The battle of Tippecanoe has been the subject of much speculation, both as to its object, and the manner of its execution, and final result. Gov. Harrison was censured by some, for not making an attack upon the Indians, on the evening of the 6th November, and for not fortifying his camp with a breast work. This was erroneously said by some, that indulging a false security, he had suffered his camp to be surprised. He was also blamed by the friends of Col. Excelsior, for directing him with his dragoons only, to disperse the Indians, who were shot and mortally wounded, during much excitement in safety. Many other complaints of less magnitude were made by men, who were wise after the transaction was over. There were indeed more able generals in the United States, who could tell what ought to have been done after the battle was fought, than the governor had soldiers in his army to fight it. Col. Boyd who commanded the regulars, wishing to honor his all the honor to himself and his regiment, concealed the governor and not sufficiently noticed him in his report, and his description made a separate communication to the war department, and also made many round assertions respecting the conduct of the militia—which was promptly explained, and the charges in general disproved by governor Harrison. Col. Boyd never had his partition, and some of them still persist in attributing the salvation of the army to him; though all troops, regulars as well as militia, with the exception of the militia of the regulars, united in attributing the victory to the militia. Most of the officers publicly united in uttering his merits. Without intending to impeach Col. Boyd with any dereliction of duty, we can positively aver, that he did not give a single order, nor perform a single act that contributed in any perceptible way to the issue of the contest. 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