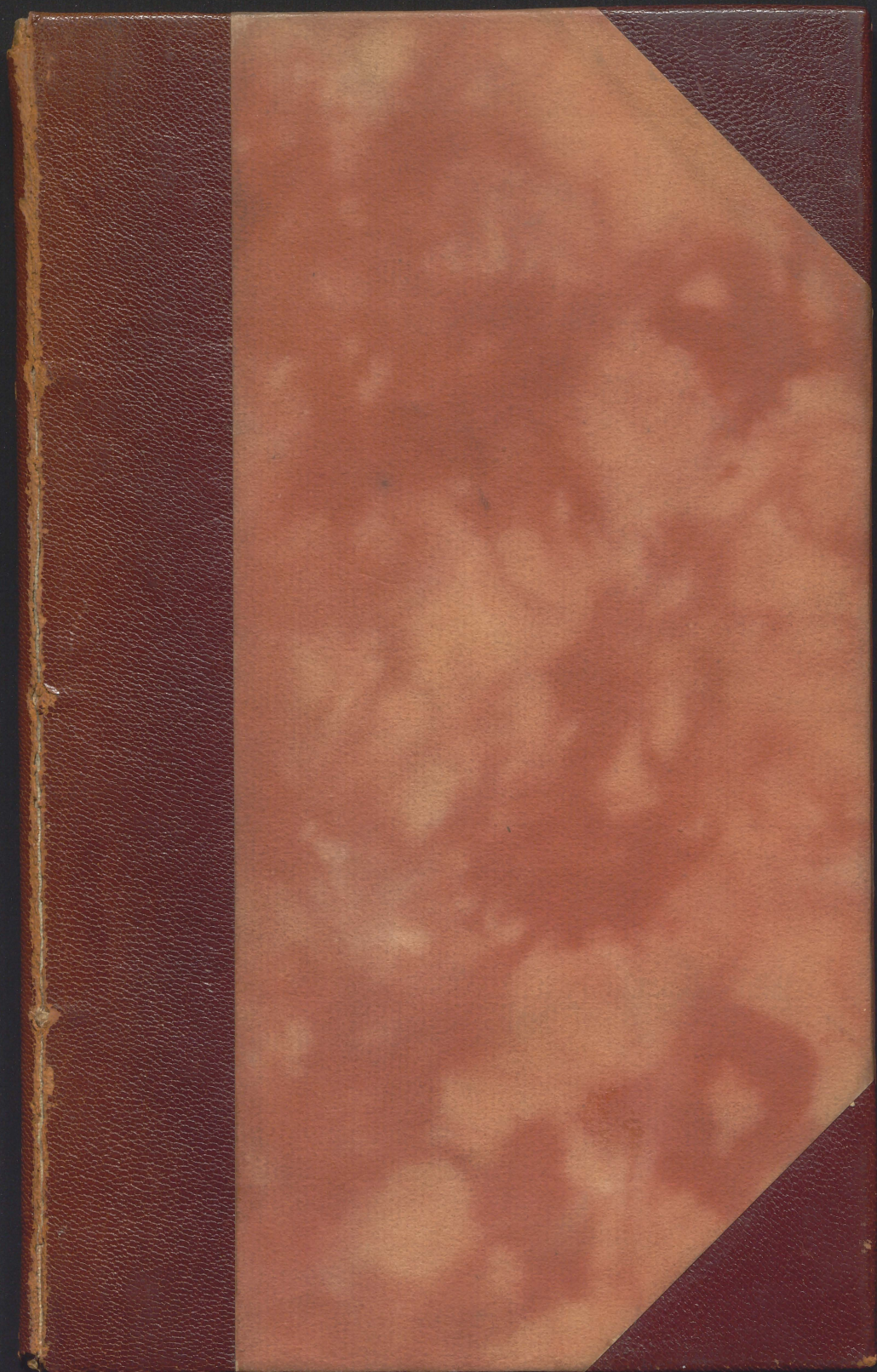
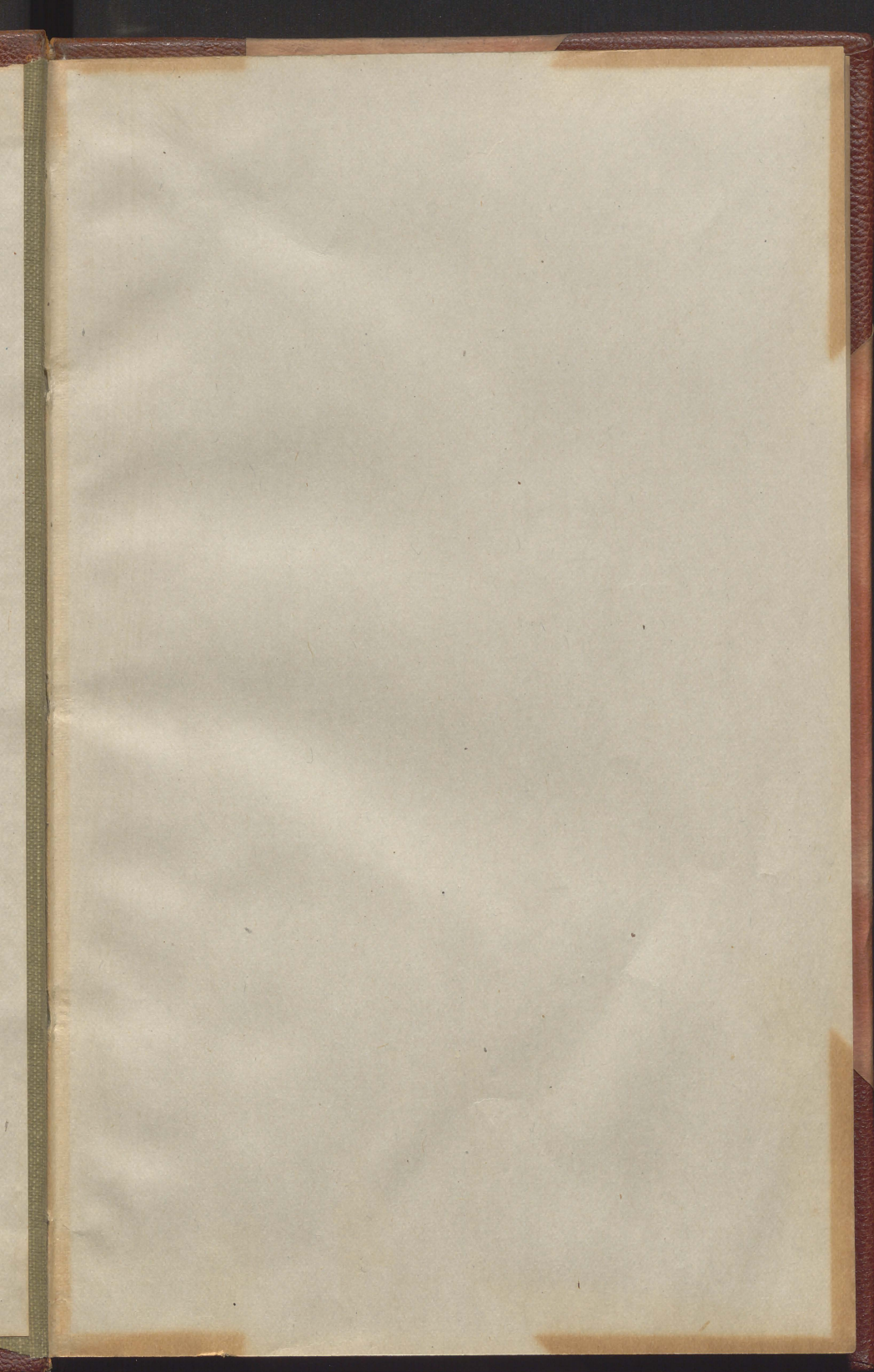




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(11)
General George Rogers Clark.

 By Dr C. C. Graham of Louisville Ky.

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A magazine sketch can give but a faint idea of the courage, energy, capacity, and indomitable tenacity of General George Rogers Clark. The stern and appalling difficulties he encountered assume the wild charm of a startling romance, and had I space for the details of time, place, and circumstances, the story of his adventures would transcend fiction itself. In short, his life was a life of self-reliant and daring deeds which stand pre-eminent above those of any hero that ever lived or led an army. For brave, humane, and high-toned chivalry he was truly distinguished. Though daring and fierce to his enemies, his generous and social impulses made him the idol of his friends. Quick to resent an injury, yet prompt to forgive it; fiery in pursuit, yet cool and calculating in action; he never stooped nor shrank, but in wisdom, to gain strength for the rebound.

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full of generous deeds and native nobility of soul, he was a brave defender of the "Dark and Bloody Ground," the splendid country now called Kentucky.

George Rogers Clark was born November 19, 1752, in Albemarle County, Virginia. In early life he was, like Washington, a surveyor, and then a major in the wars of Lord Dunmore against the Canadian, French, and Northern Indians. Hearing much said about the newly discovered world called Kentucky, and the bloody conflicts between the white and red men for possession, he determined to see for himself the present condition and future prospect of the disputed land. His arrival in the promised land was in 1775. He found there a few isolated forts in the heart of a vast wilderness claimed by the most savage and warlike people in the world, against whom unaided individual courage, though great, could not prevail. He at once laid his plans, and went mentally and bodily into the work, and marvellous was the result. Clark, with his bold and penetrating mind, saw but one course to settle the many conflicting claims to the richest region, ^{substantially}

All the country South of Kentucky river, at that time
 was claimed by the noted Col. Henderson and the great
 Transylvania ^{Land} Company, in which the most influential
 men of the Union, and nobility of England were interested.
 His claim was by a purchase made by the above
 named Company from the Cherokees South, at the
 treaty of Watunga; while the Colony of Virginia
 claimed the whole region, from the Ohio river to the
 Cumberland Mountains, by her purchase from the
 Delawares and Shawnees, and from other tribes of the
 North west, called the Six Nations, at the celebrated
 treaty of Fort Stanwix, by Sir William Johnson
 and his Co-English authorities. This rumor of a
 purchase and lasting peace with the Indians produced
 a flood of immigration to Kentucky which caused
 great alarm among the Six Nations, many of whose
 chiefs had not been in the treaty, and knew nothing
 about it; and the Six Nations not being paid ac-
 cording to the Contract, and being agged on by
 the British trading-posts where large prices were
 paid for Kentucky scalps, all the tribes were about
 to unite and exterminate the intruders. Clark, seeing
 the hopeless condition of the early settlers and the dangers
 threatening them, determined to put his own life at stake

in their defence. The powder and lead being well-nigh exhausted, and the forts being widely separated, there was no concert of action; so he called a meeting of the citizens at Harrodsburg Station, to send delegates to Virginia to ask for a supply of ammunition, at which convention Gabriel Jones and Gen. Clark were appointed and their commission was signed by Harrod and eighty-seven others. Clark and Jones now set off through a pathless wilderness of three hundred miles, over rugged mountains to the seat of Government, Williamsburg, and finding the Legislature adjourned, Jones despaired and gave it up. But not so with Clark, who by undaunted resolve, went straightway to Patrick Henry, then Governor of Virginia, and implored him to save the people of Kentucky from the destruction impending over them. The Governor being sick in bed gave Clark a letter to the Executive Council, but they declining to take any responsibility, Clark said to them in firm and threatening language, that if Virginia did not think Kentucky worth saving, he would apply to a power that was ready, willing and waiting to save and protect it. This being just at the time of the Burr and Wilkerson intrigues with

Spain, which then claimed Louisiana and the whole country west to the head of the Mississippi, the Executive Council understanding Clark's stern and independent remarks, granted him the ammunition asked for. Spain at that time controlled the navigation of the Mississippi river, and New Orleans being the only market for Kentucky, many of the leading men of Kentucky, were of the great commercial advantages Spain offered, preferred the protection of Spain to that of England. Clark, from his penetrating knowledge of human nature soon obtained, as I have said, the ammunition for Kentucky, but found great difficulty in getting it to the different forts in the far off wilderness. At last having conveyed it to Pittsburgh fort, he was joined by Jones, and improvising a craft, they descended the Ohio, and though fired at frequently by Indians on the shore, they landed near Limestone, took the powder & lead out, set their craft afloat, and hid the treasure in the woods. Jones went to the nearest station, and procuring some ten men, started back to bring in the powder, but was attacked by the Indians, and with them was killed. Clark, however, kept on to Harrodsburg station, got Norton and others to aid him, brought the treasure safely in, and supplied the different stations with the means of defence.

Clark was always ready to rally out against the invaders of Kentucky, but with quick perception he saw no need to such petty warfare, and that the axe must be laid at the root of the tree; and as there was not sufficient force in Kentucky to invade the savage strongholds and break up the British trading-posts, he again went back to both Virginia and Pennsylvania, through a wilderness of hundred of miles, and, procuring one hundred and fifty men, and boats at Pittsburgh fort, came on to the falls. Being here joined by a few Kentuckians swelling his army of invasion, he floated on down to a point near to Kaskaskia, the great trading post at that time of the Canadians, French and English to which all the Western tribes of Indians resorted. His march was rapid, and the night before his attack he led his men through a tangled forest of thirty miles and taking the enemy by surprise, captured them all though ten times his number. In like manner did he take Cahokia and St Louis forts, making prisoners of the English officers and sending them to Virginia.

The French traders and missionaries were the first whites to intermarry among the Indians and gain their friendship. The English having fallen possession of

Canada, sent their officers and traders to those posts where they were not welcomed either by the French or Indians, and Clark, by his inherent knowledge of mind, soon made friends of both French and Indians by pledging exclusive trade for the French traders, and protection to all by the powers of Virginia and Kentucky. Thus having by his shrewdness accomplished more than many officers with an army of ten thousand men could have done, he won his newly made friends to their allegiance to Virginia and peace with Kentucky. He left a single officer with the aid of the inhabitants to hold the place and prepared for his march to Fort Vincennes.

Before leaving he kindly took the French priests and Indian chiefs by the hand, saying to the chiefs: "We are brothers, and in you I have confidence, and if I hear of the English disturbing your command, I will bring an army to your defence," and expressing a hope to meet the priests in heaven, he asked for prayer and departed with his little fragment of an army to attack the British stronghold in the West. He sent spies ahead, one being the noted Col. Vigo, a Spaniard of Louisiana and the other an influential chief, to gain the friendship of the French and Indians in the British fortress in advance of the assault. All things being ready

'dark again plunged into the ~~dark~~ and dismal wilderness, and after marching day and night through rain, sleet and mud they came to the Wabash, which issuing out of its banks the low flats were for miles inundated and frozen over with ice an inch thick. The shivering men already worn down and half starved, halted, and, gazing in each others' faces with feelings of despair, muttered: "Let us go back!". But seeing their commander with his tomahawk cut a club and black his face with powder, some of which he drank, all eyes were fixed on him as he turned his face to his command, and with a voice of determination ordered Col. Bowman to fall in the rear, and ~~put~~ to death any that might refuse to follow him. So he plunged, waist deep and sometimes to the chin, breaking the ice as he went, until he came to shallow water where he halted for the moment to see whether he had lost any of his men. Seeing some of them about to faint, he put the weaker men by the side of the stronger for the next two miles, till they came to trees and bushes which afforded some support. They at last, getting on higher ground within hearing of the guns of the Fort, the anticipated enjoyment of fire and rest gave such life and hope to the whole company.

that when Clark addressed them, they exclaimed with one voice, "We will take the fort or die in the attempt."

One of Clark's spies came to his camp and told him that Col. Hamilton, the British Commander had knowledge of his approach but that the French and Indian inhabitants, six hundred in number, were in sympathy with the Americans. Stop here and think of the wonderful sagacity of Gen. Clark. Having already taken three fortresses held by forces outnumbering his own without the loss of a man, we now see he has laid the foundation for the capture of Fort Vincennes. He marched boldly on and with the eye of an eagle scanned the ground, ~~and~~ marching and counter-marching behind high ground where his scant numbers could not be seen and where one man alone by hoisting the flag higher might be thought a full company. He, moreover, placed his sharpshooters behind a hill or close to the port-holes of the artillery, so that, as soon as they opened, a shower of balls cut down the gunners, after which not a man could be got to work the guns. Hamilton, seeing this and that the citizens were against him, was paralyzed with alarm of which Clark took advantage, and with pretended feelings of humanity ad-

ressed him in the language both of a conqueror and
 friend, showing his astonishing insight into
 human nature. He said to the Commander that he
 was fully ~~able~~ and determined to storm the place
 but to ~~prevent~~ ^{prevent} bloodshed and the destruction of property
 he was willing simply to hold his men prisoners
 instead of killing them, and to permit him to
 march out with his side arms, and moreover he
 would send him and his men under guard to Detroit;
 but if he should be forced to take the place by assault
 he would not be responsible for the consequences;
 that his army was largely composed of Kentuckians
 who had come with frantic and firm resolve to recover
 the scalps of their friends, for which he had paid
 large prices, and if any of any of them should lose
 their lives in the attempt, he might expect the most
 excruciating torture. This singular epistle which
 Clark knew would touch the feelings of Self-pre-
 servation soon brought an answer—"Walk in!"—
 and thus it is seen that Clark's magic power over
 the minds of men accomplished more, though his
 force was but little over one hundred men, without
 any loss whatever, than thus by brute force could

are done with an army of a Thousand and the loss one half. He now, after sending his British prisoners off, eighty in number, to Fort Pittsburg, organized a Colonial Government, and having a sufficient force, returned to Louisville and built a fort, where he established his head quarters as Commander in Chief of the Northwest. The four British posts which had furnished the Savages with arms and munitions of war and paid premiums for scalps, being now broken up by our noble defender, Kentucky felt safe, and the flood of immigration became great. Kentucky's security, however, did not continue, for it was not long till the foe again lurked in every path from fort to fort and house to house, cruelties in the case, and murdered all who passed, until Clark becoming wearied in his conflicts with them, determined to invade Ohio and desolate their own homes. His voice being as great a charm to his friends as a terror to his enemies, he called for troops and soon had an army by his side awaiting his orders, with which force he defeated the enemy in every pitched battle, and like a tornado swept over their
[Country.]

shouts of victory rent the air, and seeing this towers
 flames, the savages for the first time felt the
 power of the white man and begged for peace.
 The conflicts which Clark had with the Indians and
 British from time to time are too numerous for detail;
 suffice it to say, he was never defeated even by an
 enemy of double his number; while other white
 commanders contending with the same foes with
 double their numbers, were defeated with great slaughter.
 Braddock's defeat, of the 1200 men engaged, 714
 were killed. In St Clair's defeat, out of 1400 men
 90 were killed and wounded. Braddock's officers
 were eighty six in number, of whom sixty three
 were slain, himself among them. St Clair had from
 eighty-six to ninety officers, of whom sixteen were
 killed and wounded - a second Braddock's defeat. Har-
 ar's defeats were generally calamitous; and that
 of Lower Blue Lick even more distressing, where,
 out of 182, even who went into battle, nearly
 one-half were killed, seven taken prisoners and tortured
 in the flames. This latter little army was com-
 posed of the first men in Kentucky whose loss was
 not only heart-rending to their families, but fearful

all, as all hope for the lives of the few left had departed with the dead. Isolated and hopeless in the far-off wilderness, surrounded by fiends that might their lives, what but dread fear could torment them by day and by night? Clark stationed at Louisville, was their only hope left, and he, when he heard of the defeats, quickly gathered a large force, followed the Indians to their homes, defeated them in every battle, and sent them, to the great joy of Kentucky.

I will only mention a few more of the many calamitous defeats, both in Ohio and Kentucky, to show the aid of men Clark had to contend with and to contrast his command with that of others. The destruction of L. Estill and his Command where Mt. Sterling Ky now stands, and the defeat of Capt. Holden at the Upper Blue Licks are but drops of blood in the "og'shead" that was spilt on this once "dark and bloody ground." I will now indulge in but one more incident, which may be of interest to the reader, to show how the savages tortured their prisoners. When Col. Crawford was defeated by the Indians in Northern Ohio, he, about the only one left alive was, a few days after his capture, put to
[The torture.]

Savages blacked his face that he might know his
 pending fate, bound him tight, and kept him long
 enough to suffer more than death. Then they stripped
 him naked, and shot some twenty loads of powder into
 his body, and having burned down wood to lively
 alps, they put him on them and piling brush around
 him quickly engulfed him in flames. His hair
 was first burned from his head, his eyes were next burned
 out, all of which he bore with incredible fortitude,
 uttering only in low and solemn tones, "The Lord
 be merciful upon my soul" till his tongue was parched
 beyond utterance and his feet (on which he had
 walked around on the coals) were crisped to the bone,
 then he quietly lay down with his face upon the fire,
 hereupon an old Squaw, with a wooden shovel, panned
 the embers on his back till life became extinct.
 That night, the Surgeon of Crawford's Command,
 was captured with him, and with his own face painted
 black for execution, witnessed the whole horrid scene.
 They beat him, as they did Col. Crawford before his
 execution, almost to a jelly, and often threw the
 bloody scalps of his friends in his face, and knocking
 down a fellow-prisoner, a Squaw cut off his
 head,

which was kicked about and stamped into the ground. In Knight, after great sufferings, was saved. I myself marched over Crawford's battle ground in a loan of 1812-14, and saw the trees scarred by the Indians.

Gen. George Rogers Clark never suffered such fate, nor did one of his Command. He never was caught asleep, but often took his enemy a-napping, conquering as he went, as he often did, through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, till his name became terror to the Western tribes. His first arrival in Kentucky was marvellous. Having made his way on the Ohio river, lined on either side with savages who almost daily captured boats and murdered whole families, he landed in a wild and trackless west, filled with a lurking foe, and alone, without aid or guide travelling over a hundred miles, and crossing deep and dangerous streams, he struck the isolated fortress of Hannotsburg, after which he was found foremost in the defense of all the interior forts, and afterwards beyond the border in the far West in bloody conflicts with fearful odds, at ever victorious. No General ever led an army with more celerity and secrecy, and his battle-cry

the onset was, "Victory or Death; honor or disgrace;" and he invariably led the way. He had the foresight of Napoleon in strategy; the heroism of Caesar in execution, and the wisdom of Scipio Africanus in leading an army into the enemy's country. His addresses to his men going into battle had much to do with his brilliant victories: "We are," he would say, "about to engage with a savage and cruel enemy who, if they take you, will torture you in the flames, and better a thousand times die in battle. But victory being better than either, you can, by a manly and unflinching courage gain it, when cowardice and confusion will be death to all."

I must be indulged in showing that all the dreadful defeats, and many they were, of our western Indian warfare arose from the want of proper commanders of which the following, from McKim's "Annals of the West," is proof:

Mr Van Cleeve, who was in the Quarter master's office, on the 4th of November 1791, at day break, had saddled his horse to return to Fort Washington, now Cincinnati, Ohio, when a tremendous

he opened upon the Kentucky Division; but as he
 knew St Clair's force to be double that of the
 enemy, he felt no uneasiness till his horse
 fell dead at his feet, and he saw a friend run-
 ning to him with a broken arm swinging by his
 side. Taking his arms, he commenced firing at any
 man whose head he saw watching him from behind
 a tree, and seeing one man running to and fro, he
 thought they were fighting, but found they were
 striving to get out without firing a gun.
 Finding himself now alone, he himself saw, and
 almost every step passed dead men, and at one
 place some thirty, mostly officers, lay scalped.
 Iron overtook an adopted brother, shot through
 the hips, and next his uncle with a shattered
 arm, and the ground was literally covered with dead
 and dying men, and the path of their disgraceful
 flight was strewn with fire-arms that the Crowds
 their flight had thrown away. In this battle
 any of our best officers were slain. The savages
 with frantic fury rushed into the ranks of the whites
 and cut down officers before they themselves could be
 slain, and in this way did Maj. Gen. Butler lose
 [his life;

ed Mann Butler, in his history of Kentucky, says
 "Indian actually whipped the scalp from his head
 while himself being put to death. In this deadly con-
 flict great was the slaughter for the want of discipline

Camps being scattered and detached and taken by
 surprise - a thing that never happened with General
 Clark." I will add the following from St. Clair's
 trial report: "A very heavy fire commenced at day-
 light, finding the men falling in all directions, I ordered
 charge with the bayonet by the regulars, which was
 made with gallantry, but to no purpose. The savages giving
 without loss, and pouring in their fire upon the
 regulars, every charge thinned their ranks until the
 savages became so furious as to rush upon them, seize
 the bayonets with their left hands and with their tom-
 bows cut them down. Every officer in the Second
 Regiment and Butler's Battalion, except three, having
 fallen, the artillery silenced, every officer except
 Captain Ford dead, and the horses killed, I ordered a
 retreat." [See American State Papers]

Thus it has been seen that the Indians of North-
 western America have shown themselves in a thousand
 battles to be the best soldiers in the world. Washington

he was a Colonel in Braddock's defeat, and afterwards retreated with a command of his own as often heard to say he would rather fight two Englishmen than one Indian.

The fame of General George Rogers Clark is not confined to Kentucky or the United States, it reached the ears of Napoleon, whose Minister to the United States, the noted Genet, conferred on him the office of Generalissimo, with the title of Major General in the armies of France. Clark was selected to lead an army of Kentuckians to seize New Orleans and hold it in the name of France at war with Spain; but Spain having shortly afterwards ceded Louisiana to France, Mr Monroe was dispatched to France, and Napoleon, about to engage in a war with England, knowing that her fleet would quickly sail for New Orleans, offered the whole of Louisiana reaching from the Gulf to the head of the Mississippi for \$15,000,000. So Clark's expedition, in which all Kentucky was ready to embark, was rendered unnecessary by Spain's cession to France, and France's cession to the United States.

Monuments have been reared in honor of

politicians whose lives were spent in frolic and
 feasting, while those who have risked their
 lives a hundred times, and worn themselves out
 hardships and privations to save their
 country from ruin, sleep in their graves
 forgotten and unthanked by those who now slumber
 upon their downy beds, unstartled by
 the Indians' war-whoop, the sharp crack of
 the rifle, and the cry of distress.

The winter lived in those days of sadness and
 now when our fate seemed certain either by
 the tomahawk or the torturing flames. Isolated
 families and forts ^{were} far apart, many miles
 from any help, in the midst of a vast wilderness
 surrounded by cruel savages that lurked
 in every path and crunched around the little
 forts threatening total destruction to all. ~~With~~
 a consent we, we had men as willing
 and ready as black to meet the foe face
 face and hand to hand in bloody conflict
 thing of daily occurrence, but we had no
 use of Columbus' strategic and magic power
 combining and controlling masses. When

Reader knows that our war with Great Britain commenced in 1776, and that the colonies beyond the mountains, being themselves hard pressed, could afford us no aid, he will see as we were, in a helpless condition, struggling against fearful odds.

The English immediately and wisely seized Western trading-posts in order to put the Indians upon the frontier settlements of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky, and the red men to the whites, preferring the strong side, listened to the promises of the English to restore them their homes that Kentuckians had, violation of the treaty of Fort Stanwix the possession of. The Six Nations were determined to join the Southern and Western tribes the recovery of their common hunting-grounds back, from his encircling knowledge of human nature, kept such spies as Hutton and Valland on the alert, and finding out that Governor Hamilton of Fort Vincennes had promised the chiefs that if they would assemble 5,000 warriors by the middle of May would furnish 200 British soldiers and

let artillery to quietly rid Kentucky of
 every man woman and child in it, he,
 in order to nip this plot in the bud and take
 it by surprise, not being able to get suf-
 ficient force in Kentucky, made a third
 trip to Virginia and Pennsylvania and
 raised from these colonies, themselves hard
 pressed, 175 men. With this force he made
 a winter campaign wading in mud and
 in water chin deep, taking Gov. Hamilton's
 stronghold without losing a man. Thus were
 severed the lines of the parents and grand parents,
 many now in Louisville, who but for the
 exertions of Gen. George Rogers Clark would
 never have had an existence, and who in
 chase of fortune and the luxuries of life
 have no time to visit the grave of one of
 the greatest military men of this globe -
 a man who accomplished more by his strat-
 egy through a long series of brilliant victo-
 ries than Washington did with the aid of a
 powerful nation; or than Jackson did in
 a single battle behind his breast-works.

(13)

Clark was by nature a Shakespeare in
his way, and as he was the Savior of Ken-
tucky and aided much in keeping the
Indians and British from Virginia, the
father of Kentucky I say, "honor to whom
honor is due"

