

Scott, although, perhaps, not one of those American officers who, like lieutenant Reab, "made no objections to doing duty," in compliance with the shameful order of his government, did certainly give his parole at Queenstown, and yet subsequently appeared in arms, both at Fort-George and at York. It has, by British officers, been stated, that it was done in the belief that he had been virtually exchanged. Colonel (now major-general) Scott has been represented as a brave officer. To merit that character, he must be an honorable man ; and would not, surely, have again unsheathed his sword, had he not felt himself justified in doing so. We take pleasure in mentioning, that lieutenant Carr, of the United States' army, also a prisoner at Queenstown, "declined obeying the order to perform duty, on the ground, that it was contrary to his parole."*—This meritorious act being, as it would appear, an excepted case, enhances its value ; and it ought to operate as a lesson to that government, which could thus stab the reputation of its officers, to facilitate the means of conquest.

Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. p. 93.

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CHAPTER VIII.

Description of Lake Champlain—Gross error in the boundary line—Garrison at Isle aux Noix--Want of a naval force--Early naval preparations of the Americans—Capture of two American armed cutters—Expedition to Plattsburg, Swanton, and Champlain-town— American calumnies refuted—Appearance of the British of Burlington — Commodore Macdonough's cautious behaviour—Sudden reduct;on of the British naval force on this lake—Immediate advance of the American flotilla—Capture of a gun-boat and batteaux on the St. Lawrence—Rival fleets on Lake Ontario—Sickness of the British and American troops on the Niagarairontier—Demonstration upon Fort-George—Contemplated expedition against Montreal—Preparations for it—A alarm of the garrison at Fort-George—American settlers—Departure of the expedition from Fort-George—Its difficulties, and arrival at the point of rendezvous—Contemporary movement of the British at the head of the lake.

NEW scenes of border-warfare carry us to one of the North-American lakes, of which we have hitherto given no description. Lake Champlain

divides the north-east part of the state of New York from that of Vermont. It is about 80 miles in length, 18 miles in its broadest, and little more than one mile in its narrowest part : its mean width is about six miles. At the north-end its waters are discharged by the Richlieu, a river about 50 miles long, into the St. Lawrence; but the navigation is completely obstructed by shoals and rapids. •

Lake Champlain belongs to the United States; the line of demarcation, owing to the ignorance or pusillanimity of the British commissioners employed in 1783, intersecting the Richlieu, at the distance of several miles down its course from the lake. The Canadians are, therefore, not only shut out from the lake, but from all water-communication with their own territory bordering on Missisqui Bay, formed by a tongue of land to the eastward. This they fully experienced, during the continuance of the several embargoes that preceded the war ; when the American gun-boats, stationed at the foot of the lake, prevented the rafts of timber from being floated out of the bay, for passage down the river. And, in March, 1814, the Americans had in contemplation to establish, on Rouse's-point, at the entrance of the Richlieu, a heavy battery; that would have commanded the river, and blockaded the flotilla which we *then* thought of constructing for service **on** the lake:

The only military post possessed by the British in the neighbourhood of Lake Champlain is Isle aux Noix, a small island, containing only 85 acres, situate on the Richlieu ; distant about 10 miles from the boundary line, and about 40, across the country, from Montreal. On Isle aux Noix are two or three well-constructed forts ; besides several block-houses at the different assailable points. The garrison, in the summer of 1813, consisted of detachments of the 13th and 100th regiments, recently arrived from Quebec, and a small party of royal artillery, under the temporary command of major Taylor of the 100th.* The only British armed vessels at this port were three gun-boats, which had been built at Quebec, by the orders of the late governor, sir James Craig, and transported over land to St. John's, a town on the Richlieu, about eight miles below Isle aux Noix.

The Americans, with their usual foresight, had, soon after the commencement of the war, armed and equipped some vessels for the service of Lake Champlain. On the morning of the 1st of June, two sloops, or cutters, manned from the American ships on the seaboard, and commanded by lieutenant Sidney Smith, formerly of the Chesapeake frigate, entered the Richlieu, and crossed the line, to display themselves to the British at Isle aux Noix. • The instant the

* App. No. 46'.

headmost vessel was seen from the garrison, major Taylor ordered under weigh the three gun-boats, each having on board, besides her Canadian crew, three artillery-gunners. Soon afterwards the second American vessel came in sight ; and the gun-boats commenced firing. To aid them in an attack against so very superior a force, major Taylor left the island in two batteaux and two row-boats; and ordered their crews, consisting of a small detachment of troops, to land on each side of the river, and fire on the enemy, then within the range of musketry. After a spirited action of three hours and a half, in which we had three men wounded; one severely by a grape-shot,. and the Americans one man killed, and eight men wounded, the two United States' sloops, Growler and Eagle, manned with 50 men each, all of whom, except the killed man, were taken prisoners ; and armed, between them, with two Colunabiadt 18-pounders, 10 long 6-pounders, and 10 18-pound carronades, total 22 guns, fell into the hands of the three Canadian gun-boats, and their assistants on shore.

These sloops were a most valuable acquisition to us, and their loss occasioned a proportionate mortification to the Americans. We can, therefore, spare the latter the consolation they

* ApP, No. 46. 4 James's Naval Occurrences, p. 5.
App. No. 47.

derived from the bombastic accounts given of their capture. One editor says, it was effected by a detachment of the enemy, and " a number of gun-boats ;" leaving the reader to fix, either 10, or 50, according to the temperature of his patriotism. Another editor declares, that cc four other gun-boats" came to the assistance of the first ; but, like a zealous naval writer, denies that the military contributed any thing to the capture ; thus :—" They, (the two sloops,) however, continued an incessant and heavy fire ; and kept the enemy on shore at such a respectable distance, that their fire had no effect."#—What defence these vessels were capable of making may be gathered, not only from their weight of metal and number of men, as already described, but from their formidable state of equipment, as exhibited in the " Return of ordnance, ammuniton, and ordnance stores," subjoined to major Taylor's letter.t Neither of these 11-gun sloops carried more than 50 men, nor exceeded 110 tons ; yet each of them had on board more cutlasses, and more axes and boarding-pikes, than a British 18-gun brig, of 121 men, and 385 tons.

They fortunate possession of these sloops, named, at first, the Broke mid Shannon, but subsequently altered to the Chubb and Finch,

* Naval Monument, p. 256.

1- App. No. 47.

James's Naval Occurr. p. 276.

suggested the idea of sending against the American ports on the borders of Lake Champlain a combined naval and military expedition. No seamen being at this time at Isle aux Noix, and none to be spared from Lake Ontario, the commander of 11. M. brig Wasp, then lying at Quebec, gallantly volunteered, with himself and crew, to man the two sloops and gun-boats, and try to provoke commodore V. I. Macdonough, at the head of his very superior naval force, to a struggle for the ascendancy on the lake.

For the purpose of carrying into effect the intended operations along the shores, about 1000 officers and men, of the 13th and 100th regiments, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Murray, inspecting field-officer of militia, embarked at Isle aux Noix on the 29th of July, in the Broke, Shannon, three gun-boats, and about 40 batteaux provided for the purpose. The flotilla arrived, on the next day, at the American town of Plattsburg ; where the troops landed, and, after frightening away, by their looks, about 400 militia, proceeded to fulfil the object of their mission. They burnt the state-arsenal, Pike's encampment, several block-houses, the extensive barracks at Saranac, (three miles off,) capable of containing 4000 troops, and every building belonging to the United States between the latter place and Plattsburg: After' performing ,. this laborious

task, the troops re-embarked ; carrying away with them a quantity of naval stores, shot, and equipments for a large number of batteaux. An Albany (United States) writer states the value of the public buildings destroyed at Plattsburg at 33,300 dollars. A party of the British .next proceeded to Swanton, Vermont, near the head of Missisqui Bay : there they also destroyed the barracks and public stores, as well as several batteaux lying at the wharf ; and then re-ena-, barked.

Ere we accompany the expedition to its next_ point of landing, it behoves us to get rid of those calumnies which the American editors have heaped upon the British troops for their alleged ill-conduct at Plattsburg. Mr. Thomson contents himself with the general charge, as applicable to all the visited towns, of our " committing every species of , depredation upon the property of the inhabitants." Mr. O'Connor, aware of his forte, is far more explicit. lie says : " The destruction of private property was not limited to such as they could eat, drink, and carry away, but furniture,, which could not be of any use to the plunderers, was wantonly . destroyed ; — tables, bureaus, clocks, desks, cupboards, and crockery, were cut and broken to pieces, and thrown about the houses : books an writings were torn to pieces,

* History of the War, p. 156.

and scattered about the streets."* This industrious gentleman next charges us with excesses, enormous, cruel, and wanton, in a high degree : "rape and ravishment follow ; and then we are dismissed with the honorable epithets of " faithless ruffians, unprincipled invaders."*

Of all the editors of " prints known to be friendly to the war," t Mr. O'Connor, assuredly, deserves to be the best rewarded by the American government. If he is not already provided for, we do most strongly recommend him to the president's notice_ But for an accidental glance at an American newspaper, as we suppose, *not* " friendly to the war," we should have been puzzled to produce any answer to so serious a charge, beyond, founded on the positive assertions of the officers employed, the most unqualified negation. Of two writers from Burlington, distant 24 miles only from Plattsburg, one says : " We have not heard of any private property being destroyed, and our accounts are to a late hour last night ;":1. the other says " They have done no injury to private property."1:

On the 3d of August a detachment of the 100th regiment, under the command of captain Elliot, landed at Champlain-town, where the British destroyed two block-houses, and the

* History of the War. p. 134. + See p. 162.
Boston Paper, Aug. 6, 1813.

commissary's stores. This was done without opposition, as no troops were in the village, and the inhabitants remained quiet. On the day previous captain Everard, with his own sloop, the Broke, the Shannon, captain Pring, and one gun-boat,* had proceeded off Burlington, an American post-town to the southward of the lake, distant 24 miles from Plattsburg. Mr. O'Connor says, the British fired into the town for some time, but that no considerable damage was done ; also, that they, on the same evening, proceeded to Shelburne, four or five miles south of Burlington, where they burnt a sloop, having on board about 400 barrels of flour. After admitting that " the United States' troops at Burlington, under command of major-general Hampton, consisted of about 4000 men," t Mr. O'Connor gravely tells us, that the general's " limited force did not justify his detaching any part of his troops ;" and, as if to hit the poor general still harder, adds, " the marauding enemy wisely retired, before reinforcements could have arrived." t

By way of apologizing for British vessels being allowed thus to traverse, in active hostility, a lake belonging wholly to the United States, Mr. O'Connor says: "Commodore Macdonough had not a sufficient number of seamen to man hiA

* App. No. 49.

1- History of the War, p.

sloops, and would be highly reprehensible had he been defeated in an attempt to recover the ascendancy."* That commodore Macdonough had, however, ino scarcity of seamen to complain of, _may be inferred, from the previous statements on the subject in the American newspapers ; the easy transit from New Vol* to Burlington, where the commodore's vessels lay ; t and, above all, from the fact of his having sent, to cruize on the lake, when lie had no enemy to fear, two of his flotilla so plentifully, if not lavishly, supplied with seamen." Captain Everard, on the forenoon of the 2d, appeared close off commodore Macdonough's position, and observed two sloops, similar in size and force to those he had with him, " ready for sea," and another, somewhat larger, taking in her guns ; also two gun-boats lying under the protection of 10 guns, mounted on a bank 100 feet high; two scows mounting one gun each, as floating batteries, and several field-pieces on the shore. Without the sloop that was equipping, the commodore had one gun-boat and two scows more than hisime-armed adversary ; who, after apprOachingaS near to. the batteries as was safe,

* Hist. of the War, p. 133.

Burlington is 150 miles from Albany ; thence, down the Hudson, it is 160 miles (performed by the steam-boats in 36 hours) to NeeYork.

Captain' terard had' lost an arm, and is since dead.

stood out; and, not doubting he should provoke the American commodore to get under weigh, captured and destroyed fou'r American vessels under his very nose. Vain were those gallant efforts. Too much risk would attend an encounter ; and American caution was not to be entrapped.

After a diligent search for some better excuse for commodore Macdonough's forbearance, than was furnished by Mr. O'Connor, we find one, consisting of *three* words only, copied into all the American histories of the late war that have passed through our hands. These three magical words are—" sloops of war ;"* by which we are to understand, that the two late American sloops, or cutters, " Eagle and Growler,"t did, in a few days after they got into our possession, become metamorphosed into the size, force, and appearance of " two large sloops of war ;"1: and commodore Macdonough actually finds it convenient, at a subsequent day, to confess himself the victim of the same delusion.§

Foiled in his hopes, and not willing to remain where his services would languish for want of a competitor, captain Everard returned, with his crew, to Quebec ; leaving, in charge of the " two

* Sketches of the War, p. 165 ; and Hist. of the War, p.133.

. Hist. of the War, p. 133.

Nay. Hist. of the United States, Vol. I.. p. 232.

§ James's Nay. Occur. P. 420.

large sloops of war" and three gun-boats at Isle aux Noix, captain Pring and about 18 seamen. Judging of what a small British naval force at this station might have done, from what it did do, who can refrain from wishing that the Wasp brig had been broken up at Quebec ; or any other means devised, so as to have retained captain Everard and his gallant ship's company upon Lake Champlain ?

Scarcely had commodore Macdonough been apprized of the final departure of his troublesome visitor, than, with his vessels all of a sudden fully manned, he sallied forth from his strong position, and swaggered across the lake. Had this important event been communicated to the public in a blustering newspaper-paragraph, no one, except an American, would have given it a second thought. But, above all things, who could expect it would have been made the subject of an official letter, For the honor of the cloth, we will suppose, that commodore Macdonough was ordered, by the war department, to dress up a story, that should calm the fears of the inhabitants around the lake, as well as enable major-general Hampton to keep his soldiers within their ranks, preparatory to the great expedition on foot. We observe the word advantage," as addressed to captain Pring's mighty force at Isle aux Noix. When the reader

* Appcadis, No. 50

knows that, three weeks previous to the date of this most important official document, commodore Macdonough had under his command four sloops, such as *he* would call " sloops of war," two gun-boats, and six scows, mounting altogether "48 guns,"* he will have no difficulty in deciding which party had an " advantage" to boast of.

Quitting, for busier scenes in the west, the waters of Lake Champlain, our course up the St. Lawrence is arrested by a little affair, for which the most cursory notice would have sufficed, had not the American editors, in compliment to their home-readers, conferred upon it a few embellishments of their own. On the 15th or 16th of July, two boats from commodore Chauncey's fleet at Sackett's Harbor, each armed with a 16-pounder,t and manned with 50 sailors, besides 20 soldiers furnished for the occasion by general Lewis, were sent to cruize in the St., Lawrence. On the following day they succeeded in capturing a British gun-boat of the second class ; carrying, by one American account, " a 6-pound carronade," and by another " a 24-pounder," along with her convoy, fifteen batteaux, laden with 230 barrels of pork, 300 bags of pilot-bread, and some ammunition ; and bound from Montreal to Kingston. The prisoners taken, consisting chiefly of Canadian boatmen, are stated to have amounted to 67.1

Nay. Hist. of the U.S. Vol. I. p. 233. 1 Nay. Mon; p. 262.

As soon as intelligence of this event reached Kingston, three gun-boats,... commanded by lieutenant Scott, ILN.. with a detachment of the 100th regiment, under , captain, Martin, proceeded to „intercept the American party, together with the captured gun-boat and batteaux. Lieutenant Scott, having ascertained that they had gone into Goose, Creek, on the American side of the river, pushed for that place ; but the evening being too far advanced, it became necessary to defer the intended attack till the next morning. During the night the British were reinforced by another gun-boat, and a detachment of the 41st regiment under major Frend. This officer now assumed the command ; and, at three o'clock, proceeded up the creek, in the hope of gaining the enemy's position by dawn of day. But it was soon discovered, that the Americans had removed higher up the creek, where the channel became so narrow that the gun-boats could not use their oars, nor turn so as to bring their guns to bear upon the banks.. Their further progress up the creek was obstructed by large trees felled across the stream. In the attempt to remove these impediments, the British were tired upon from the two American sloops, and from a gun in a log-fort which the enemy had erected on the left bank, as well as from musketry fired out of a thick wood, on the same side of the creek ;

the whole rendering the enemy's position a very strong one.

A detachment of troops had been landed on the right bank.; whence it was found impracticable to reach the enemy's position. These troops immediately returned, and embarked in the sternmost boats, to cross over to the left bank ; but, from, the swampy nature of the soil, no fit place for landing could be found. The leading boat being exposed to a heavy and galling fire, and having so many of her crew wounded, as to check the fire of her gun, the only one that could be brought to bear on the enemy, the troops, led by lieutenant Fawcett, leaped into the water ; and, carrying their arms and ammunition over their heads, succeeded in gaining the land. Here they drove the Americans, and compelled them, with precipitation, to seek shelter within a high entrenchment ; but their increasing numbers, the natural strength of their position, and the impracticability of any co-operation by the gun-boats, induced major Frend to order the re-embarkation of the troops. The British lost one gunner, and three soldiers of the 41st, killed ; a midshipman, 12 soldiers, and four seamen, wounded ; together with captain Milnes, one of sir George Prevost's aides de camp; who had just arrived from head-quarters to procure intelligence of the expedition. The American loss is no where mentioned ; not even by Mr.

O'Connor ; who has the effrontery, however, to declare, that the British loss, in " killed alone, was from 40 to 60."

Pursuing the thread of our military narrative, we again arrive at the western end of Lake Ontario. Since our departure thence, early in 'July, the naval operations on this lake have assumed a more imposing aspect ; and, although we can refer to nothing decisive, commodore Chauncey's *losing* victories," and sir James Yeo's *gaining* " defeats," (so amply detailed in our naval volume, "O cannot fail to interest the novice in American history. Major-general Wilkinson, in a letter to the American secretary of war, written about this time, bestows upon the British naval commander an epithet, than which, even in the opinion of well-informed Americans, none can be found more appropriate to himself and his friend the commodore. " If," says the general, " sir James Yeo comes out, I shall have the pleasure to see Chauncey give the 'vapouring dog a sound drubbing... ff

Since the latter end of July major-general De Rottenburg had removed his army still nearer to Fort-George; and now held his head-quarters at the village of St. David, about seven miles distant. His advance posts occupied a position not four miles from the American entrenchment.

* James's Nay. Occurr. p. 297.

Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. App. No. 29.

About this time that debilitating malady, the fever and ague, shewed itself in the British camp, where the number of troops, altogether, was far too inconsiderable, to admit of any, the slightest reduction. In some measure to counterbalance this, the proximity of the Americans to the river, their crowded state, and constant fears of attack, subjected them, also, to the ravages of sickness. According to an official return of regular troops at Fort-George and Niagara, towards the end of July, the aggregate number attached to the station was between 6 and 7000. Of these about 1100 were sick, and about 1600 absent, either on furlough or detached services ; leaving, fit for duty, " 3835 men." Admit about 300 of these to have been stationed at the opposite fort of Niagara ; and there were, under major-general Boyd's command, at Fort-George, and the entrenched camp outside, full 3500 effective regular troops ; while we had, threatening them on all sides, fewer than 2100 rank and file ; including a numerous list of sick.

During the month of August, a few immaterial affairs of piquets occurred, in which both sides sustained some slight losses ; and wherein, also, according to Mr. Thomson, " the character of the American arms was not in the least diminished." About the 20th sir George Prevost arrived at the British encampment ; and deter-

*.Sketches of the War).,p., 158.

mined to try the effect of a demonstration upon Fort-George. Accordingly, at day-break, on the 24th, a sudden attack was made by the British advanced troops upon all the piquets stationed in front of the American entrenchments. After a smart fire, the Americans, except about 50 or 60, got safe back to their works ; carrying with them a captain of the 49th and 10 privates, whose ardor had led them too far in advance.

Mr. Thomson tells us, that the British forces gained possession of the town of Newark, and skirted the woods opposite Fort-George, within gun-shot of the American camp ; also that brigadier-general Williams, who had a few days before arrived at that post, advanced from the works with his brigade ; but, after a trifling skirmish was ordered back by general Boyd, and the troops were directed to act only on the defensive. " The British," proceeds' Mr. Thomson, " soon after retired to their entrenchments, then about two miles distant. The capture of captain Fitzgerald and his men, was the only loss which the enemy is known to have sustained."* On the contrary, general Boyd found out, that we left " about 15 dead on the different grounds ;" and, far from admitting a defeat, or noticing our re-possession of Newark, pompously concludes his despatch : " His force is withdrawn, out of our reach, into his strong holds."

* Sketches of the War, p. 158.

About this time major-general Wilkinson arrived at Sackett's Harbor, to take the command of the troops upon the American northern frontier ; having under his immediate command at the harbor 2829 rank and file, and upon the whole line, 14,832 officers and men, of the regular army.' His direction were, to attack Kingston ; if successful there, or if unlooked-for difficulties should render an attack .unadvisable, he was to make a similar attempt upon Montreal: towards both of which objects commodore Chauncey was to lend his powerful co-operation. Soon after the general's arrival at Sackett's Harbor, he submitted the views of his government to a council of his officers ; who, after mature consideration, determined as follows :- " To rendezvous the whole of the troops on the lake in this vicinity, and in co-operation with our squadron, to make a bold Feint upon Kingston ; slip down the St. Lawrence ; lock up the enemy in our rear to starve or surrender,-or oblige him to follow us without artillery, baggage, or provisions, or eventually to lay down his arms ; to sweep the St. Lawrence of armed craft ; and, in concert with the division of major-general Hampton, to take Montreal." t

'While general Wilkinson was at Sackett's Harbor, disciplining his troops and maturing his plans, he received information of the

Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. p. 346. t Ibid App. No. 1.

departure of both sir George and sir James from Kingston ; leaving there a force of only " 1500 regulars, and 500 militia." In a letter to the secretary of war, he declares he would make a real attack on that post, could he " have mustered 3000 combatants, with transports to bear them." This is a specimen of that caution, which contributed, more than our few troops and weak batteries, to the salvation of the Canadas. Acting upon the same principle in his contemplated attack upon Montreal, the general hoped, by making feints to the westward, and by practising other " military deceptions," to reduce the number of his opponents within Mr. Secretary Armstrong's advised proportion.*

In the hot pursuit of his plans of subjugation, the general arrived at Fort-George on the 4th of September. Here he met with an unexpected check, in the sickness of a part of the troops, and the deficiency of transports to convey them to the point of rendezvous. He was still further delayed, by " the equivocal relation and unsettled superiority of the adverse squadrons ;" for which he had to thank, not less the *vapouring* behaviour of his friend the commodore, than the bold measures and masterly manoeuvres of his friend's opponent.

Early in September sir George returned to

* See p. 133.

Kingston, leaving major-general De Rottenburg in command of the troops before Fort-George. By this time, sickness had committed dreadful ravages among both officers and men. Intelligence of that event soon reached the American government ; and when the secretary of war was required to sanction the opinion given in a council held at Fort-George, on the 20th of September, that the works ought to be razed, and the place abandoned, he returned for answer, that Fort-George might be maintained ; adding : " If the enemy's sick list amounts to 1400 out of 3000, they can undertake nothing with effect."* He then informs the general, of a proposition for raising, on the Niagara line, before the 1st of October, a volunteer-force of 1200 men, " exclusive of Indians," who, " with a train of artillery," says he, " are to be authorized to invade the enemy's territory." He further informs him, that a reinforcement of militia forces will be sent, to replace the regulars destined for the expedition...

Towards the end of September a deserter from us went into Fort-George, with, as the best passport he could carry, the following note, addressed to a " Major V. Huych,; 13th regiment."—" Every movement of the army is either an immediate attack or retreat : about 2270 strong." **This** piece of intelligence was penned

* Wilkinson's Memoirs. Vol. III. App. No. 32.

by an American settler, named Hopkins; afterwards hung, for this and other traitorous acts, or, as his countryman goodnatureedly says,

for his attachment to the United States." This reminds us of the memorial presented to congress, at the conclusion of the war, by general Porter, on behalf of Abraham Markle, Gideon Frisbie, and their associates, survivors of the corps of Canadian volunteers," praying for -a tract of land, in size proportionate to their .several losses, &c.—An American writer from Washington has taken great pains to enforce the claims of this " generous, brave, and enterprising corps of men, raised," says he, " by the gallant, and ever-to-be-lamented colonel Willcocks, whose every impulse was in unison with the noblest feelings of humanity."t This " ever-to-be-lamented" traitor was a native of Ireland, and had been a member of the provincial assembly.

Mr. Secretary Armstrong's account of the British sick before Fort-George was not at all over-rated ; although his account of the British force evidently was. The latter, fit for duty, amounted, towards the end of September, to about 2290 rank and file. On the other hand, we find the American force at Fort-George and Niagara, on the 19th of the same month,

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. p. 398.

+ Col. Journal, Vol. I. p. 97. ff

stated at 4587 officers **and** men, including 1165 sick.* **Deducting the latter, also the odd hundreds to allow for the garrison at Fort-Niagara, there were at Fort-George 3000 effective American regulars. At the time of the alarm created by Mr. Hopkins's billet, and which occurred ten days subsequent to the date of the above returns, (since which, the health of the men had been gradually amending,*) two columns of troops, one commanded by major-general Wilkinson, the other by major-general Boyd, actually marched out of the camp, and formed in its front and rear. What an opportunity was here for deciding the fate of Upper Canada !—Fortunately for the upper, and perhaps for the lower, province too, there existed, on an island about 200 miles down the St, Lawrence, a *will o' th' wisp*, that captivated the senses of these tyro-warriors ; and, after dragging them, against wind, rain, and snow,t through the whole length of an angry lake, down foaming rapids, and amidst showers of " teasing" bullets, cast them on shore, jaded in body and broken in spirit, the reproach of their country, and the laughing-stock of those whose soil they were hastening to invade.**

The commencing particulars of this " ill-fated" expedition-- we shall now proceed to detail. It should first be mentioned, that the

Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. p. 281. + Ibid, p. 289.

original plan had been altered to the actual capture of Kingston and Prescott, previous to the main attack upon Montreal. The knapsacks of the troops filled with " winter-clothing," transports at the beach waiting to receive, and a powerful fleet in sight on the lake ready to protect them ; also, the long-expected 1500 New York militia arrived in the fort to assist the 23d regiment, about 600 strong, in repelling an attack, the first embarkation took place on the 28th of September ; but, scarcely had the expedition proceeded ten miles beyond Niagara-point, when that " vapouring dog" sir James shewed hitnself, and led the commodore a sad dance.* .Without waiting till the two fleets (as presently happened) ". went out of sight," the troops hurried back as fast as oars and sails could drive them. It was upon their return, that the two generals made the demonstration which we have already noticed. ,f,"^-!

it .On the 1st of October the commodore returned to Niagara; and, having promised general Wilkinson, by letter, that he would do his best " to keep the enemy in check in this part of the lake, or effect his destruction," the troops were allowed to re-embark. Bad weather drove many of the boats into Twelve-mile Creek. The expedition again moved forward ; and, after buffeting with a severe storm, in which several of the boats

were wrecked, arrived, about noon, on the 7th, at Oswego. Here the gale detained the expedition till the 13th ; % Then ^{L T} again appeared on the lake, and, after suffering from cold, wind, and rain, reached Henderson's Bay, in the neighbourhood of Sackett's Harbor. Leaving the American soldiers to dry their cloaths, and ponder upon the perils they are doomed to encounter,⁷we hasten back to see what effect this sudden movement of the. enemy produced upon the British army stationed before Fort-George.

• At no loss to divine that some point on the St. Lawrence was to be the devoted spot, major-general De Rottenburg, on the 2d of October, commenced his march for Kingston, with the 104th and 49th regiments ; the latter of which, as a proof how the whole division was still suffering from sickness, could muster, fit for duty, no more than **16**, out of about 50, commissioned officers. Unfortunately, the two flank companies of De Watteville's regiment, proceeding from York on the same destination,...by water-carriage, fell into the hands of commodore Chauncey. Major-general Vincent now resumed the command of the British troops upon the Niagara ; where we will leave him, for the present, to attend to major-general Proctor and his little army, in their proceedings along the, north-western frontier.

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* James's Naval Occurrences, p. 301.