

his country. He engaged them to throw aside the scalping knife ; endeavoured to implant in their breasts the virtues of clemency and forbearance ; and taught them to feel pleasure and pride, in the compassion extended to a vanquished enemy. Circumscribed in his means of repelling invasion, he studied to fix the attachment of that rude and wavering people ; and, by reducing their, military operations to the known rules of war and discipline, to improve the value of their alliance., ‘ ,,,

His strong attachment to Alie service, and particularly to his regiment, formed a distinguishing feature in his character.. There was a correspondence of regard between him and his officers, and even the non-commissioned officers and privates, with an addition of reverence on the part of the latter, that produced the picture of st happy family. Those movements of feeling which the exertions of discipline will sometimes occasion, rarely reached his men.. He governed them by a sentiment of esteem which he himself had created; and the consolation was given him, to terminate a useful and brilliantcourse in **the** midst of his professional family.

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CHAPTER IV.

Bombardment between the batteries at Fort-Erie and Black Rock—Capture of some Canadian voyageurs—General Van Rensselaer's secession from the Command—Appointment Of general Smyth—The latter's plan for invading Canada —Re-commencement of hostilities after general Sheaffe's armistice—General Smyth's proclamation—Preparations for the invasion—General Porter's address to his countrymen—The landing of the advance of the American army--Its proceedings detailed—Summons to Fort-Erie—A:tempt at invasion given up—State of the American army at Bidraloe—Commodore Chauncey's arrival at Lake Ontario—State of the two hostile fleets—,1 ttack upon the Royal George—Midnight incursion into Gananoque from Ogdensburg—State of the British works at Fort-Wellington- Unsuccessful attack upon Ogdensburg--.Mutual advance of the American northern army and the British troops at Montreal—American reonnoissance—Retreat of the American army, and termination of the campaign.

ABOUT the middle of October, the batteries at Fort-h- rie, under the direction of lieutenant-colonel Myers, opened upon the opposite fort of Black Rock. The latter returned only a few

shots ; but not, as the Americans allege, on account of there being no heavier cannon mounted than 6-pounders ; for, - not many months afterwards, we spiked, upon the same battery, two **12**, and two 9-poUndeyS, ,kind, brought away one **12**, and three 6-pounders, Several shots, it is stated, struck the Black ROCI hattery, and two or thiee passed through the upper loft of the west-hariackS.. T12e easiAoarracks were destroyed **by** a bomb, which blew up the magazine, **an** &lint a qntity furs, the late cargo of north-weSt company's ;brig Caledonia, whose Capture, as a British 'man of war brig, we have already noticed.

•014 the 21st 61 'OSetober,' 44 .Canadian geurs under the command of captain M'llonnel, were . surprised, and, after losing four killed and four wounded, captured, by a body of Americans, Under a major Young. The major s force is not stated ; but, as the Americans proceeded to ihe attack in expectation of meeting " from one to three hundred British," we may conjecture that their numbers fully equalled the latter amount. Forty prisoners, (one having escaped,) along with their baggage, and some immaterial despatches, fell into the hands of the. Americans ; Who, ingeniously enough, converted a large pocket-handkerchief Which they found among the spoils, into " a stand of colours : " and Mr. O'Connor exultingly

tells us, that major Young had the honor of taking the first standard from the enemy in the present war ;" following it up with,— " The movements of the enemy, during these times, were not to them equally honorable or important. "

Since the day succeeding the "brilliant" affair at Queenstown, major-general Van Rensselaer had resigned the command of the Niagara-frontier to brigadier-general Smyth. . This officer, confident in the success of *his* plan of invasion, already felt upon his brow the gentle pressure of those laurels, so vainly sought after by his two predecessors. The information which the general had gained respecting the distribution of the British forces, and the superior facility, as he conceived, of disembarking troops above the falls, induced him to fix, for the invading point, some part of the shore between Fort-Erie and Chippeway. As the first step in the business, general Smyth was bound to give 30 hours' notice of his intention to break off the armistice, which had been so good-naturedly concluded by major-general Sheaffe with general Van Rensselaer. This the American general did, at three o'clock on the afternoon of the 19th of November ; not, however, as he ought to have done, at general Sheaffe's head-quarters at Fort-George, but, with all the craftiness of his nation,, to the commanding-officer at Fort-Erie, the extreme right of the British line in full hopes, no doubt, that he should be able to make the attack,

before succours could arrive from Fort-George, distant 36 miles.

Early on the morning of the 21st, by way perhaps of announcing the renewal of hostilities, the batteries at Fort-George, and those at Fort-Niagara, commenced a mutual bombardment, the latter with : hot shot, and continued it throughout the day.: The town of Newark was slightly injured ; and several buildings in and near to Fort-Niagara were set on fire. Air. Thomson celebrates, on this occasion, " the 'courageous fortitude" of the wife of one Doyle, a private in the .United States' 'artillery, who had been taken at Queenstown. After stating that she assisted in supplying one of the guns at Fort-Niagara, he, in the true hyperbolic style, declares she " was surpassed, neither by Joan, maid of Orleans, nor the heroine of Saragossa."* We suspect that " the refusal of the British to parole her husband" arose from his being an Irishman and that, had the lady herself not been his countrywoman. her birth-place would have been, vauntingly set forth in the history*. The British lost, by the cannonade, one man killed, and one wounded ; the Americans, four **men** killed, (two by the bursting of a gun,) and four wounded.

General Smyth, in order that he might visit the Canadian shore, with a force competent to retain the posts he should capture, was desirous to increase his numbers, by such

volunteers, as would be willing to perform one month's service ; to submit to the rigid discipline of a camp ; and to encounter the British on their own soil.: This zealous officer had-already made known his wishes, by a pompous proclamation, dated on the 10th of November.* It fully answered his purpose ; and, by the 27th of that month, the force collected at his station. amounted to 4500 men.'

. The whole of this army, properly drilled, equipped, and organized, was to embark, on the morning of the 28th, from the navy-yard at Black Rock. No possible preparation had been omitted. At the navy-yard there were lying, for the purpose of transporting the troops across the river, 70 public boats, calculated to carry 40 men each ; 5 large private boats, to carry 100 men each ; and 10 scows, for the artillery, to carry 25 men each which, together with a number of small boats, were to convey time whole across, to effect the Third invasion, and, it was more than hoped **the** complete subjugation of Upper Canada:t

So easy was the task considered, that general Porter, of the New **York** militia, published an address to the people of Ontario and Genessee ; in which he assured, them, that the American army would, **in It** few; days, occupy all the British fortresses on the Niagara; restore peace to the whole of that section of the country ; and redeem the tarnished reputation of the nation.

* Sketches of the War, p. 80.

,.* Appendix, No. 14. . ► jc+ Sketches of the War,

Between one and two o'clock on the morning of the 28th of November, the advance of general Smyth's army, composed of detachments of picked men from the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, United States' regiments of infantry, under the command of colonel Winder of the 14th, accompanied by a party of naval officers and seamen lately arrived from one of the Atlantic ports, embarked at Buffaloe in ten boats, to carry the British batteries on the opposite shore, and, by that means, facilitate the passage of the main body of the army.

At Fort-Erie the British force consisted of a detachment of 80 men of the 49th, under major Ormsby, and about 50 of the Newfoundland regiment, under captain Whelan. The ferry, opposite Black Rock, was occupied by two companies of militia, under captain Bostwick. At a house on the Chippeway-road, called the Red House, distant about two miles and a half from Fort-Erie, was stationed lieutenant Lamont, of the 49th, having under his orders two serjeants and 35 rank and file ; also, lieutenant King, of the royal artillery, with two field-pieces, a three and 6-pounder, worked by a few militia-artillerymen. In the vicinity of the Red House were two batteries, one mounting a 21, the other an 18-pounder ; and which were also under the charge of lieutenant Lamont. At the distance of about a mile further along the road, lieutenant Bartley, of the 49th, with two serjeants and 35

rank and file, occupied a post ; and so did lieutenant M'Intyre, with the 41st light infantry, about 70 strong, upon the road-side, not far from Frenchman's creek ; which is distant, about four miles and a half from Fort-Erie. The headquarters of lieutenant-colonel Bisshopp, the commanding officer on that line, were at Chippeway. He had under his immediate command, a battalion-company of the 41st regiment, a company of militia, and a small detachment of militia-artillery, with a light 6-pounder ; also, at no great distance, a detachment of militia under major Hatt.

The ten American boats had scarcely proceeded half the way across the river, when a smart fire from captain Bostwick's men compelled them to drop down opposite to the Red House. Here they met with a similar reception from lieutenant Lamont's party: Owing, however, to the extreme darkness, it was deemed useless to fire more than one or two rounds from the guns ; but, as alarm-guns, they produced an unexpected effect, that of scaring away five of the boats, including the boat in which was colonel Winder.*

The division that effected a landing consisted of about 190 regular troops, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Boerstler, of the 14th, and captain King of the 15th, United States' regiment ; and of about 60 seamen, under the orders'

of lieutenant-commandant Angus ; assisted by sailing-master Watts, lieutenant Dudley, and nine other naval officers.* Captain King, taking with him 60 regulars, also 40 seamen, armed with boarding-pikes and cutlasses, -and headed by lieutenant Angus, proceeded to the Red House, about 50 yards front the beach, and whither lieutenant Lamont and his little detachment had just retired. The Americans charged, and received a volley from the British, succeeded by a charge, which drove the Americans towards their boats. Here they rallied, and re-advanced to the charge ; but were received and repulsed as before. A third attempt to subdue this little band was equally unsuccessful ; and the Americans retired to their boats, apparently to await a fresh reinforcement. Ashamed, however, to be thus beaten by a handful of men ; captain King, at the head of his regulars, again advanced, by a circuitous route, upon the left of lieutenant Lamont's position. In momentary expectation of reinforcements from Chipeway, lieutenant Lamont, in the dark, mistook Captain King's party:- for Canadian militia ; until a most destructive volley, which killed seven, and wounded eight of his men, as well as lieutenant King, of the artillery, dangerously, and himself in five places, convinced him, too late, of his error..'

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without a commander, the few gallant fellows

* Sketches of the War, p. 83.

who had not been wounded, except three who were taken prisoners, dispersed, and effected their escape, On getting possession of the Red House, the Americans set fire to it ; and spiked the two field-pieces. They then proceeded to the batteries, and dismounted the 24 and 18-pounder, the former of which had been previously spiked by one of the British officers. Having performed this " brilliant service,"* the Americans carried to their boats the three unwounded, along with several of the wounded prisoners, including lieutenant King of the artillery; whose death, a week or two afterwards, was no doubt occasioned by this inhuman act. Lieutenant Lamont was dragged a short distance ; but, fortunately for him, the enemy considered that a dead prisoner would be a poor trophy, and therefore left him on the ground ; where, already lay, 12 of their own killed, and the same number of their wounded. The sailors had, in the mean time, been amusing themselves with pillaging, and setting fire to the few private dwellings scattered along the beach.

It is now time to attend to the exploits of the remaining sub-division of the American force, and which had landed a mile or two below the Red House. This party consisted of about 130 regulars, under lieutenant-colonel Brewster, and 20 seamen, led by sailing-master Watts. These

* History of the United States, Vol. III. p. 205.

were attacked, at the moment of landing, by the subaltern's detachment of the 49th under lieutenant Bartley ; and kept greatly in check, till a very severe loss in killed, wounded, or missing, and the near approach of another part of the enemy's force, which, owing to the darkness, had been mistaken for militia, compelled lieutenant Bartley to retreat. Soon afterwards, the Americans again encountered captain Bostwick with his detachment of militia; and, after a few rounds, in which the latter lost three killed, 15 wounded, and six prisoners, compelled him also to retreat.

The whole of this warfare was conducted amidst darkness ; and the fears of the American commanding-officer induced him to adopt a stratagem, that caused additional perplexity to the trebly inferior force opposed to him. " Lieutenant-colonel Boerstler," says the American editor, " exerting a Stentorian voice, roared in various directions, as though he commanded thousands, and created such a panic in the enemy, that they fled before him wherever he moved."

It was still dark when major Ormsby, with his 80 men, arrived at the mill on Frenchman's creek. A few shots were there exchanged ; and the major, after proceeding a short distance further, very properly halted ; intending to remain till day-light, which was then fast approaching,

Hist. of the United States, Vol. III. p. 204.

should discover to'. 'him the number and movements of the enemy. ' While here he was joined by the 41st light infantry, which had also been partially engaged; and, at day-light, lieutenant-colonel Bisschopp arrived on the ground with the expected reinforcement. His whole force, when first drawn up, did not exceed 250 regulars and 300 militia, aided by a light 6-pounder ; but, by 11 o'clock in the forenoon, the number of regular troops became nearly doubled. ³;

The expected day-light had not only stilled colonel Boerstler's " Stentorian voice," but driven him and his party to the safe side of the river ; in such haste too, that captain King and about 30 of his men were left " in possession of the conquered ground," and became, in consequence, prisoners to the British. Just as day dawned, colonel Winder, with his five boats, containing 250 men,* was again on the river ; • but two or three well-directed shots from the 6-pounder, and a few rounds of musketry, made this division, as it approached the Canada-side, again wheel about, and retire, for the last time, • under the shelter of Squaw Island, to the American shore.

The circumstances attending this predatory excursion having been as much exaggerated as the affair at Queenstown, it may be worth our ►hile to beStow a glance at some of the more

Sketches of the War, p. 84.

prominent mistatements. Mr. O'Connor has, strange enough, not thought this "brilliant service" deserving a place in his book ; but Mr. Thomson has devoted four or five pages to it, and doctor Smith, in his usual way, has borrowed his account from the latter ; first taking care, by transposing the words, and embellishing the style, not to be guilty of plagiarism.

Both of our zealous historians describe lieutenant Lamont's force as "250 men ;" and aver that captain King made from this party alone "about 50 prisoners." The dismounting of the two heavy guns, spiking of the two field-pieces, and the burning and destroying of private property for a few miles along the beach, are represented thus:—"Every battery, between Chippeway and Fort-Erie, was now carried ; the cannon spiked or destroyed, and 16 miles of the Canadian frontier laid waste and deserted." Doctor Smith, having been informed that the guns; were not "destroyed," and justly considering) that "laid waste" might imply what, along an; extent of a few miles, actually happened, to the disgrace of the invading force, states thus: "Every battery, between Chippeway and Fort Erie, was carried, the cannon spiked, and a frontier of 16 miles entirely cleared." Captain, King's stay on the Canadian shore, or, as Mr., Thomson happily expresses it, his "remaining in possession of the conquered ground, until the

main body of the army should cross over the strait, and march to the assault of the British forts," was because he and his "12," not 30, men "were anxious to complete the destruction of every breast-work and barrack of the enemy."* The flight of colonel Brstler and the remainder of the American regulars and sailors is denominated, returning "from their successful enterprise," "as soon as the ends of this daring and well executed adventure had been completely accomplished."-J

The loss of the British, on this occasion, was in proportion to the strenuous exertions they had made to repulse an enemy, whose numbers were so superior. By the returns there were 17 killed, 47 wounded, and 35 missing. **And** yet, according to the American accounts, 'besides the "50 prisoners" taken at the Red House, colonel Bwrstler made "several" in his excursion. The loss of the Americans, except as to officers, no where appears. Mr. Thomson names, among the killed, sailing-master Watts, and, among the wounded, a midshipman, and three captains and a lieutenant of infantry ; adding, that seven out of 12 of the navy-officers were wounded.'

In expectation, no doubt, that "this gallant and successful enterprize," seconded by four or

* Sketches of the War, p. 84.

+ Mist. of the United States, Vol. 111. p.

t App. No. 13.

five hours' bombardment by , the batteries at Black lock, had inspired the British Withdread of the American arms, general . Smyth, about one o'clock in the clay, sent across a flag of truce, to demand the surrender of Fort-Erie to the American army. To this ridiculous demand,* .colonel Bisshopp sent a very- proper reply, which may be summed ttp in these words:—" Come and take it." Captain Fitzgerald carried the return-message ; and general Smyth, displaying before him his numerous force, tried every means in his power to frighten the British commander into a bloodless surrender of his post.

The morning's success was to have been followed up by the embarkation of the whole 4000 men. One half of this ,force, it appears, had actually embarked ; " and," says Mr. Thomson, "about 500 British troops had been drawn up in line, about half a mile from the river, sounding their trumpets and bugles, and indicating their readiness to receive the Americans."t The American troops, however, after being allowed to enjoy this scene till late in the afternoon, were ordered to disembark, with ' an assurance, that the expedition was only postponed until the boats should be put in a state of better preparation." j- ., :

On Sunday the 29th, the troops received orders to prepare for embarkation on the following

morning, at nine o'clock. After a squabble among the general officers about the proper time for embarking, and the proper point for disembarking, the troops, the expedition was ordered to be ready by three o'clock on Tuesday morning. The men were ready, and partly in the boats ; when general Porter received orders from general Smyth, to disembark immediately. " He was at the same time informed," says the American account, " that the invasion of Canada was abandoned, for the season ; that the regulars were ordered into winter quarters ; and that, as the services of the volunteers could now be dispensed with, they might stack their arms, and return to their homes. The scene of discontent which followed was without a parallel ; 4000 men, without order or restraint, indignantly discharged their muskets in every direction ; and the person of the commanding-officer was threatened." Two or three pages more of Mr. Thomson's book are filled with complaints against general Smyth, for his behaviour on this occasion. To all of which he answers, that he " had called together a council of his officers, and they decided against the contemplated operations, upon the ground of the insufficiency of force ; and that, circumstanced as he was, he thought it his duty to follow the cautious counsels of experience, and not, by precipitation, to add to the list of defeats."

* App. No. 15

± Sketches of the War, p. 85.

Comparing the bombastic language of general Smyth's proclamation, wherein he had invited his countrymen to partake with him in the plunder of the "-Canadas, with the desponding tone he assumed when he ordered his troops, just at the crisis of their hopes, to retire to their huts for the winter, we cannot be surprised at their contemptuous indignation, so fully expressed in the nick-name they gave him of, general *Van Bladder* ;' nor at the grief and perplexity of the Washington patriots, whose ardor for invasion a third discomfiture contributed nothing to allay.

We know not which to applaud most, the gallantry displayed by the few regulars and militia that defeated the enemy's plan of invasion, on the morning of the 28th of November ; or the firmness of the field-officers of the line and of the militia, who, sitting in council, as they had been ordered, on the 1st of December, unanimously declared, that they did *not* consider a retreat to be at all necessary, nor a measure to be looked forward to ; and that a small reinforcement would enable them to gain a most decisive advantage over any force which the bragging Mr. Smyth might have it in his power to send against them.

Disappointed in the expectation of gaining the command of the lakes by the invasion of Upper Canada, the American government adopted immediate measures to provide on those in,

land seas, a naval force superior to that of the British. As the first step, commodore Isaac Chauncey, one of the oldest captains in the Antirican service, was appointed to the command. This officer arrived at Sackett's Harbor, in October, 1812 ; invested with full powers to buy, build, and **equip**, • till his force should attain the requisite superiority. Some schooners were purchased ; and a ship of 590 tons laid on the stocks. Previous to the end of the month, two detachments of seamen, one of 400, from the United States' frigate John Adams, (then about to be reduced to a corvette,) the other of 100, selected from the different ships on the seaboard, along with a number of active officers, arrived at Sackett's Harbor.

At this time, the British fleet consisted of the Royal George, a ship of 340 tons, and of three smaller vessels, that averaged about 150 tons ; mounting, altogether, 50 guns ; chiefly carronades and long sixes. These vessels were wholly manned by Canadians ; and even commodore Earle, their commander, was not an officer of the royal navy. He had proved his incompetency, by not capturing the Oneida brig, lieutenant Woolsey, at the commencement of the war.

With so ample means in his power, commodore Chauncey had, by the **6th** of November ; equipped a fleet, composed of the brig Oneida, and six fine schooners, ' of the united burthen of

830 tons. The total number of guns in his fleet did not exceed 48; but several of these were long 32 and 24-pounders, and the greater part mounted upon traversing carriages, by which their effect was doubled.* When we consider that these seven vessels were manned with upwards of 500 experienced seamen, it will not be too much to say, that commodore Chauncey could appear on the lake with a force doubly superior to that of his adversary.

Accordingly, having ascertained that the Royal George and two of the schooners were hourly expected back from Fort-George, whether they had been carrying a small detachment of troops, the commodore sailed out upon the lake; and, on the afternoon of the 8th, to his great joy, fell in with the Royal George alone. Chase was given, but she was lost sight of in the night. On the next morning, however, she was discovered in Kingston channel, and again chased by the whole American squadron. "By the alternate prevalence of squalls and calms," says an American naval editor, "the squadron was led in close pursuit into the harbor of the enemy at Kingston." A mutual cannonading took place, and the Royal George was compelled to run further up the bay. "The American editors all concur in celebrating the event, as a presage of the commodore's future fame. One

* See James's Naval Occurrences, p. 298.

of the American officers concludes a flaming account of the "bombardment of the town" thus: "Our sailors had no grog; they want no stimulus of that kind: they seem to have no fear of death." The reader's surprise will cease, when he learns that, during the whole of this two hours' appalling "cross-fire of five batteries of flying artillery, in all about 40 guns," so well managed was the distance, that no one was hurt on shore, and only one man killed, and three wounded, on board the American squadron. It was not the "heavy showers of round and grape," but of *snow*, that compelled the commodore to haul off, and return to Sackett's harbor. According to sir George Prevost's letter, the American squadron had sailed out "for the purpose of carrying the port of Kingston by surprise;" but no such intention was evinced on the part of the American commander. It is not improbable, however, that the latter's exaggerated account of his reception, tended, in no small degree, to the security of Kingston during the remainder of the war. ♣ —

Our vicinity to the St. Lawrence reminds us, that we have to correct the mistatements of the Americans, respecting two otherwise unimportant operations in this quarter. In the autumn of 1812, about 600 American troops, under general Brown, of the New York militia, were garrisoned

* Sketches of the War, p. 93.

at Ogdensburg, a village of about 70 houses and some very strong works, situate on the river-side, and distant about 60 miles from Sackett's Harbor.* The first of these operations was a "daring exploit" performed by the Americans, on the morning of the 21st of September. To understand the thing properly, the American account must precede ours. "Captain Forsythe," says Mr. Thomson, "of the rifle-regiment, being at the garrison of Ogdensburg, projected an expedition against a small village in the town of Leeds, in Canada, called Gananoque. In this village was the king's store-house, containing immense quantities of arms and ammunition; and captain Forsythe was resolved on its destruction. In the night of the 20th instant, therefore, a number of boats being provided, he embarked with 70 of his own men, and 34 militia-men. Before day-light of the 21st, they reached the Canadian shore, and unobserved, at a little distance from the village. The enemy soon after discovered them; and they were fired on by a party of 125 regulate and militia. Forsythe drew up his men, and returned their fire with such effect, that the British retreated in disorder; and were pursued to the village, where they rallied and resolved on making a stand, and disputing- the passage of a bridge. An action took place here, which

* Sec Plate 11.

resulted in the same manner as the former. The enemy again fled, making his escape-over the bridge, and leaving 10 of his number killed, eight regulars and several militia-men prisoners, and the village and storehouse in possession of the American party. Captain Forsythe lost one in killed, and one wounded, After releasing the militia-prisoners on their parole, and taking out a quantity of arms, fixed ammunition, powder, flints, and other articles of public property, and setting fire to the store-house, he returned to Cape Vincent with these, and the eight regulars prisoners."*

The "village" of Gananoque consisted, at this time, of a public-house and a saw-mill, also a small hut, inhabited by colonel Stone of the militia; in whose possession were two kegs of fixed ammunition, and a chest containing about 30 muskets. The Americans landed, in the dead of the night, by the aid of a traitor; and entered the "village" while the inhabitants were asleep. On arriving opposite to colonel Stone's house, some villain of the American party fired into the window, and wounded Mrs. Stone, most dangerously, as she lay in her bed. When the commander of these midnight prowlers afterwards came into the house, the poor woman, sitting up in her bed, expostulated freely with him upon the dastardly attack which he and his followers had

*Sketches of the War, p. 67.

made; and she actually possessed magnanimity enough to conceal from his knowledge, the dreadful wound she had received in the body. The noise of the firing had brought up between 30 and 40 militia-men ; but, as fir " regulars," there was not one within 20 miles of the spot. Of the militia-men not more than six or eight came with arms in their hands ; and it was they, and not " 125 regulars and militia," that inflicted the small loss sustained by the Americans. Instead of " 10," we had only one killed. The other incidents mentioned in Mr. Thomson's account are, we presume, embellishments of his own ; not omitting the dignified appellation of " king's store-house" conferred upon Mr. Stone's hut, and of " village" upon that hut, a public-house, and a saw-mill.

Opposite to Ogdensburg, where the St. Lawrence is just 1800 yards across, is situate the British village of Prescott, or, as since called, Fort-Wellington ; distant 68 miles from Kingston, and 130, in an opposite direction, from Montreal. In 1809 or 10, sir James Craig, then governor of Lower Canada, sent parties of men upon several of the little islands in the St. Lawrence, to blow up or otherwise destroy a quantity of old French guns, that had been lying there, probably since the days of Wolfe. No sooner did news of the late war reach Prescott, than 13 of these guns, *honey-combed*, and without trunnions,

were fished up froth the bottom of the river,' The loss of trunnions was attempted to be supplied by substitutes of wood, with iron hoops ; and carriages for the guns were constructed by the Canadian carpenters.—These fine pieces of artillery were then mounted upon an open sea-battery, formed chiefly of mud ; but yet dertotnated by Mr. Thomson, " a strong line of breast-works." With an old farmer for an engineer, the people of Prescott, on the 2d of October, opened a fire upon Ogdensburg ; and, by the bursting of one of the guns, inflicted upon themselves the only loss that was sustained. A few months afterwards, an officer of the engineers, who had been sent from head-quarters to inspect the guns at this " strong breast-work," condemned the whole of them.

On the second day from that on which the "heavy cannonading" too' -'place, colonel Lethbridge, who commanded at Fort-Wellington, determined to assault the fort of Ogdensburg. He took with him eight artillerymen, two companies of the Canadian fencibles, about 40 of the Newfoundland regiment, under captain Skinner, and 150 Highland militia, who, after travelling the whole night, had just arrived in carts, from Cornwall, distant 48 miles. There were several other militia-men at the post but the Highlanders, fatigued as they necessarily must have been, were all that would consent to accompany the

regulars across to the attack. Colonel Lethbridge, with his few men, advanced towards Ogdensburg ; and captain Skinner, having his small detachment on board two gun-boats, attacked and silenced the American battery upon the point below the town. The small force that had embarked could make little or no impression upon so strong a position : the boats therefore returned, with a trifling loss. It was afterwards ascertained, that general Brown was preparing to abandon the fort; a clear proof that, had all the men embarked, the enterprise would have been successful: Mr. Thomson, after exaggerating the British force to the usual extent, Confers ridicule upon the whole affair, by saying There has been no engagement, perhaps, in which more gallantry was exhibited on both sides."*—Mr. O'Connor equally contributes to raise a smile. By this action," says he, " the British are taught, that 400 Yankees will not decline a combat, when attacked by 1000 of their troops."t

The hopes of the war-party now rested upon the northern army, or " army of Canada," stationed at Plattshurg, in the state of New York. This army, which, according to Mr. Thomson's computation, consisted of 5737 men, or, according to other American accounts, of that number of regulars only, besides 2 or 3000 militia, was

* Sketches of the War, p. 68. + History of the War, p. 61.

under the command of major-general Dearborn; who is stated to have received positive orders to winter in Montreal. As if determined to make the attempt, the whole army, divided into two brigades, under major-generals Bloomfield and Chandler, marched, on the 15th of November, to the American village of Champlain, situate about six miles from the boundary-line between Lower Canada and the **United States**.

The instant this **was known at Montreal**, the brigade of British regulars **and** militia stationed there, consisting of about 600 of the latter, and the 8th and Glengary regiments, **in all** about 1900 men, crossed the St. Lawrence, and marched for La Prairie, distant about nine miles. Here the men arrived at midnight, **and** were distributed into quarters.

The two armies, one of invasion, the other of defence, being now within a few miles of each other, about 300 of the 15th United States' **regiment**, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Pike, accompanied by a detachment of cavalry and some militia, were, at two o'clock on the morning of the 19th, despatched across the lines, upon a reconnoissance. Being unexpectedly fired upon by a party of 40 Indians and voyageurs, or north-west company's armed men, stationed as an advanced picket near the river La Cole, the American regulars were thrown into confusion, and fired upon each other ; by which they