

wounded five of their own men. In the mean time, the British advanced party made good their retreat, unmolested, and without a man having been hurt. A wounded prisoner, brought in by the Indians, as well as **some deserters**, estimated the American loss at between 30 and 40. Mr. Thomson, without stating his own, describes our force, as "a large body of British and Indians;" and then boasts, that the Americans "burned a block-house, and put the garrison to flight." Not a word is there about the men, in their confusion, wounding each other, or about any loss whatever sustained by the American party.

After performing this gallant achievement, the American army hurried back, in full retreat, to Plattsburg and Burlington. Here the regulars prepared to winter; but the cavalry and flying artillery proceeded to the southward, in search of more comfortable quarters. General Dearborn's promised visit to Montreal being now put off *sine die*, the British troops re-crossed the St. Lawrence; the militia, who formed the chief part of the force, retired to their homes; the few regulars into winter-quarters; and thus ended the campaign of 1812.

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CHAPTER V.

Opening of the campaign of 1813 — American plan of operations developed — British regulars in Upper Canada — Predatory excursions of the Americans on the St. Lawrence — Retaliatory attack on Ogdensburg, and capture of eleven pieces of ordnance — Unparalleled heroism of captain Jenkins — Alteration of an official letter — Capture of York in Upper Canada — Destruction of the public buildings — Remarks on the defenceless state of that post — Attack upon, and capture of Fort-George — Retreat of major-general Vincent — Capture of Fort-Erie — Arrival at Kingston of sir James L. Yeo — Sir George Prevost's attack upon Sackett's Harbor — His abandonment of possession — Remarks on the important consequences that would have ensued from an opposite proceeding — American strictures on sir George's despatches.

VIGOROUS preparations had been making by the American government, to open, with some *echit*, the campaign of 1813. Reinforcements of troops from most of the recruiting districts, together with the necessary supplies of provisions and military equipments, had been for-

warded with the utmost celerity ; and every thing promised a successful issue to the contemplated operations against the British North-American provinces. According to an important state-paper, dated on the 10th of February, 1813, and signed by the American secretary at war, the American government was now willing, or, in other words, compelled, to suspend, for a while, " the main attack;" that is, as we presume, the attack which was to result in finally expelling us from " the continent" of America.*

- This friendly moderation is thus made known :

It then remains to choose," says Mr. Armstrong, " between a course of entire inaction, because incompetent to the main attack, or one secondary, but still an important object. Such would be the reduction of that part of Upper Canada, lying between the town of Prescott on the St. Lawrence and Lake Erie, including the towns of Kingston and York, and the forts George and Erie. On this line of frontier the enemy have, at Prescott 300, at Kingston 600, at George and Erie 1200, making a total of regular troops of 2100. Kingston and Prescott, and the destruction of the British ships at the former, would present the first object ; York, and the frigates said to be building there, the second ; George **and** Erie the third. The force

* See p. 77.

to be employed on this service should not be less than 6000, because, in this first enterprise of a second campaign, nothing must, if possible, be left to chance. ''

We have here, from the fountain-head of authority, a clear view of the intended operations against the upper province ; and shall see, as we proceed,-io what extent these *reduced* expectations became realized. It is gratifying to receive from the mouth of our enemy, so accurate an account of the British regular force in this quarter ; nor is it less so, to observe the respect paid to that regular force, in the high odds that are required, to place the issue of a struggle beyond the reach of " chance."

The river St. Lawrence is seldom open for the purposes of navigation before the middle of May. Its frozen state, in the months of January and February, had enabled captain Forsythe, who still commanded a detachment of United States' riflemen at Ogdensburg, to send frequent parties across, not only to attack the few Canadian militia that occupied posts of communication along the British shore ; but, as he had done in the preceding fall, to commit depredations upon the persons and properties of the unarmed inhabitants. **A second of these nocturnal excursions has been thought**

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. his App. No. 26. t Seep. 124.

deserving a place among the brilliant achievements of the American troops. Mr. Thomson tells us that, on the night of the 6th of February, captain Forsythe, with " 200 men, besides colonel Benedict and several private gentlemen,"] icrossed over upon the ice to Elizabethtown, or, as now called, Brockville, distant about 10 miles from Fort-Wellington. After wounding a militia-sentry, the *gentlemen* broke into the few houses in the village, not omitting the gaol, and carried off the male-inhabitants, to the number of 52. Some of these, like many blacksmiths and tavern-keepers. in the United states, held commissions in the militia. Nothing could happen better, • The American public was, a day or two afterwards, officially told of the capture, in a very gallant manner, of a British guard, consisting of 5Z men, including two majors, three captains, and two lieutenants.—" Of the militia," was left out ; also, that the " 120 muskets and 20 rifles" werellot taken, as the intended in, Terence is, upon the men's shoulders, but (except about half a dozen) packed up in cases. These arms were, indeed, the only " public property" at the place ; although, under that denomination, the poor people's horses, pigs, and poultry, were carried off by the American regulars and private *gentlemen*,

On the 19th of the same month, lieutenant-

* Sketches of the War, p. 118.

colonel Pearson, who commanded at Fort-Wellington, despatched major Macdonnell, of the Glengarry fencibles, a corps raised wholly in the Canadas, with a flag of truce, across to Ogdensburg, to remonstrate with the American commanding officer, about sending over parties to commit such depredations as that we have just recorded. The American officers were very insolent to major Macdonnell, notwithstanding his flag ; and disgusted him•with their taunts and boastings. One of captain Forsythe's lieutenants was recognized as a fellow who had been a menial servant on the Canadian side. The American commanding officer expressed a wish meet lieutenant-colonel Pearson and his men, upon the ice ; and, what was rather extraordinary, wanted major Macdonnell to pledge himself to that effect. The latter replied, that, in two days, the command at -Fort-Wellington would devolve upon him ; when he would hase objection to indulge captain Forsythe in this manner he wished.

On the day mentioned major Macdonnell succeeded to the command ; and, on the same evening, sir George Prevost arrived at the post, on his way to Kingston. Major Macdonnell informed his excellency of the recent proceedings of the American soldiery, and of many particulars respecting the state of the garrison at Ogdensburg. Be further apprized sir George, of the facility with

which the Americans from Ogdensburg might cut him off in his route to Kingston ; unless, by way of escort, a small party of the Newfoundland regiment should be sent a-head, in carriages, as well as a few Indian warriors to occupy the woods that skirted the road. This was immediately done ; and then the major strongly urged sir George to allow him, in case the American troops should quit Ogdensburg for the purpose of seizing his person, to walk into the enemy's empty barracks. Sir George, however, would not listen to his making an attack ; assigning as a reason, that he did not wish, by any offensive acts of the sort, to keep alive a spirit of hostility. At last, when getting into his sleigh, a little before day-light on the morning of the 22d, sir George most reluctantly consented, that major Macdonnell might, in order to discover if the garrison had abandoned Ogdensburg, make a *demonstration* before it, upon the ice ; but, on no account, was a real attack to be made.

No sooner had sir George departed, than major Macdonnell commenced his arrangements for giving the promised meeting upon the ice, to his friend captain Forsythe.. The militia *homing*/4y at the post amounted to about 700 ; but a muster would produce scarcely half of the number. These people ought, in fact, to be called *armed peasantry*; and, as such, were much more likely to be found earning

their bread at their homes, than idling away their time at the place of rendezvous. By seven o'clock, major Macdonnell had collected about 300 of his militia-forces. Leaving a part of these to man the *honey-combed* guns, in case of a retreat being necessary, the major commenced his march on the ice, at half-past seven in the morning, with about 230 militia, and 250 regulars ; including 11 artillerymen, along with three field-pieces, one 6 and two 3-pounders. The distance across the river, in the direction of the point of attack, was about a mile and a half. Owing to the caution requisite in marching over ice with 480 men, and at a place, too, which had never before been crossed in the same manner, the troops and militia were divided into two columns, and formed in extended order. The right column, commanded by captain Jenkins, of the Glengarry's, and consisting of his own flank company, and about 70 militia, was ordered to check the enemy's left, and intercept his retreat ; while the left column, under the command of major Macdonnell himself, and consisting of the remainder of the regulars and militia, marched towards the town of Ogdensburg, where some heavy field-artillery was posted.

The drift of snow, on the American side of the St. Lawrence, was much deeper than had been expected, and retarded the troops considerably. All this while they were sustaining, particularly the

Men of the right column, a heavy cross-fire of round, grape, and canister from the American batteries; but the troops marched resolutely on. The details of this very gallant exploit, performed by men who had never before been in action, are fully given in major Macdonnell's letter.* During the warmest of the fire upon the right column, captain Jenkins ordered his men to fix bayonets, and charge the American troops that were firing down upon them from the bank. While wading through the deep snow, to ~~of~~ in contact with his enemy, the captain received a grape-shot in the left arm; which shivered the bones, from the wrist nearly up to the shoulder. He, however, marched on at the head of his company, heedless of the acute pain caused by the splintered bones rubbing, at every step, against his sword-belt. Not many minutes afterwards, a case-shot tore most of the flesh from his right arm; and down it dropped by his side. Still did this heroic young officer run on with his men, cheering them to the assault, till, almost maddened with pain, he staggered on one side; and, after making several turns, evidently unconscious of what he was doing, fell from the loss of blood.

The only American account of the capture of Ogdensburg which has been published, does not give numbers on their own side, but states

App. No. H.

that colonel Benedict's regiment of militia had joined captain Forsythe's detachment. Copsequently, major Macdonnell's estimate of " 500 men under arms" cannot be overrated. Though unwilling, or perhaps unable, to state the amount of the American force, Mr. Thomson has not hesitated to fix that of the British, at two columns of " 600 men each."* He admits the American troops were compelled to abandon the town and batteries, after losing 20 men in killed and wounded. Our loss, owing to the enemy's artillery, his secure position behind the houses of the town, and the delay caused by the depth of snow, amounted to eight killed and 52 wounded.

This action, in spite of captain Forsythe's declaration that he would *whipt* the British, with the greatest ease, did not continue beyond an hour; and yet resulted in the capture of 11 pieces of ordnance, among them two 12-pounders surrendered by general Burgoyne in October 1777; also a quantity of ordnance, marine, commissariat, and quarter-master-general's stores; together with four officers, and 70 privates. The British burnt two barracks; and, on account of their immoveable state in the ice, two armed schooners, and two large gun-boats. Mr. Thomson says, " we " claimed the capture of immense stores, none of

* Sketches of the War, p. 110. + A favorite American word.

which had ever been deposited there." Of course, then, he pretends to be ignorant about the prisoners, cannon, armed vessels, and barracks. Still, the total silence of all the other American historians entitles Mr. Thomson to some credit, for the scanty account he has given of the capture of Ogdensburg.

It will be gratifying to the reader to be informed, that captain Jenkins, notwithstanding his desperate wounds, survives ; although no higher in rank. His left arm was amputated close to the shoulder, and of his right arm he can now make some trifling use. He is a native of the province of New Brunswick ; where his father, an American loyalist, and a brave old soldier, was, by the last accounts, living.

Previously to dismissing the affair at Ogdensburg, it may be right to mention, that sir George Prevost's secretary, or some person who had the transcribing of major Macdonnell's official letter, must have inserted, by mistake, the words : " In consequence of the commands of his excellency."* Of this there needs no stronger proof, than that major Macdonnell, while he was in the heat of the battle, received a private note from sir George, dated from " Flint's Inn,- at 9 o'clock," repeating his orders not to make the attack: and even, in the first private letter which sir George

* App. No. 16. t Nine miles from Fort-Wellington.

wrote to major Macdonnell, after being informed of his success, he could not help qualifying his admiration of the exploit, with a remark, that the latter had *rather* exceeded his instructions.*

About the middle of April, a powerful American force, for the invasion of Upper Canada, had concentrated at Sackett's Harbor, where lay commodore Chauncey, with 1900 tons of shipping, besides several small schooners and boats, ready to transport the troops across the lake; and, by 86 pieces of heavy cannon, to second their efforts at landing on the opposite shore. Our Lake Ontario vessels were lying *unmanned* in Kingston-harbor ; and indeed, had their crews been on board, were scarcely strong enough to cope with the Madison, commodore Chauncey's flag-ship.

Having received information of the weak garrisons at York and Fort-George, major-general Dearborn determined, with the co-operation of the fleet, to attempt carrying into effect a part of Mr. Secretary Armstrong's plan. Accordingly, a body of troops, with some field-artillery, having embarked on board commodore Chauncey's vessels, the whole set sail, on the 25th of April, bound directly to York, the capital of Upper Canada. j' It is not easy to get at the exact number of troops sent upon this

* Both of these letters the author has seen. 1- Sec p. 53.

expedition. General Dearborn, in his letter, does not enumerate them. Commodore Chauncey says, that he "took on board the general and suite, and about 1700 men ;". and this number has satisfied the three American historians. But major-general Sheaffe says : " The accounts of the number of the enemy vary from 1890 to 3000 ;"- and an Albany paper actually states the number at " about 5000." At the lowest estimate, therefore, the American troops must have amounted to 2000; which, added to the united crews of the armed vessels, make an aggregate force of 2790 men.

The guns upon the batteries at York, being without trunnions, were mounted upon wooden stocks, with iron hoops ; and therefore became of very little use. Others of the guns belonged to the ship that was building, and lay on the ground, partly covered with snow and frozen mud. The accidental circumstance of the Duke of Gloucester brig being in the port, undergoing repairs, had enabled the garrison to mount, on temporary field-works, a few 6-pounders. The troops stationed there were commanded by major-general Sheaffe ; and consisted of two companies of the 8th, or King's regiment, one company of the Glengarry fencibles, about a company of the royal Newfoundland regiment, a small detachment of the royal artillery, and a

gang of naval artificers ; all of whom, together with the militia stationed at the post, amounted to no more than 600 men. There were, also, between 40 and 50 Indians, led by major Givens.

At seven o'clock on the morning of the 27th of April, the American squadron, with the troops on board, arrived, and took a good position about two miles and a half to the westward of the town. At eight o'clock the debarkation commenced ; and the advance, consisting of major Forsythe and about 260 riflemen, pushed for the shore. Here they were unexpectedly assailed by major Givens and his Indians ; who, after skirmishing for a short time, retired, and were joined by 60 of the Glengarry fencibles. This small force Mr. Thomson, taking general Dearborn for his authority, calls " the principal part of the British and Indians, under the immediate command of general Sheaffe." In the mean time, general Pike had effected a landing, with, says the American official account, but not Mr. Thomson, " 7 or 800 men."-t The whole of the American troops, at this time on shore, amounted, by their own accounts, to upwards of 1000. These were met by 210 men of the 8th and Newfoundland regiments, and about 220 militia-men ; who " made a formidable charge upon the

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American column, and partially compelled it to retire. But," continues Mr. Thomson, " the officers instantly rallied the troops, who returned to the ground, and" (gallant soldiers !) " impetuously charged upon, and routed the grenadiers." The fact is, the remaining 1000 Americans had now landed, and were rapidly advancing to support their faltering companions. Then, and not till then, did the British regulars and militia retire, under cover of their insignificant batteries. The latter had, in the meanwhile, been engaging the whole of commodore Chauncey's schooners ; which, from their light draught of water, had approached within gunshot.

The commodore's letter states, that the debarkation commenced at eight, and finished at 10 o'clock ; therefore, the whole 2000 American troops, with general Pike at their head, accompanied by the artillery, were on shore at that hour. Yet this contest, with 650 British regulars, militia, and Indians, and in which the grenadier-company of the 8th suffered itself to be almost cut to pieces, did not terminate till 2 o'clock in the afternoon : a sufficient proof that the most determined bravery had been exerted, to defend the town of York against the combined attack of the American fleet and army.

After the British had been repulsed, according

* Sketches of the War, p. 12,2.

to Mr. O'Connor, " by a number far inferior to theirs,"* general Pike and his men, formed in platoons, marched towards the redoubts; at which the few cannon had been previously spiked. On waiving near the second redoubt, general Pike halted, to await the return of a strong corps of observation, under lieutenant Riddle, which had been sent forward to ascertain the strength of the garrison. While the general was sitting upon an old stump, examining, or, to use a homely but expressive phrase, *pumping*, a wounded British serjeant who had been taken in the woods, the stone powder-magazine, situate outside the barrack-yard, and to which a train had been laid, blew up, with a tremendous explosion, and killed or wounded 260 of the invading troops, along with their general.

The American historians, improving upon the statements in their own official letters, accuse general Sheaffe of *treacherously* ordering the train to be laid, and of artfully placing several cart-loads of stone to increase the effect. Mr. Thompson adds :—" Had not general Pike halted. the troops at the enemy's second battery, the British plan would have attained its consummation, and the destruction of the whole column would have been the natural consequence."t He who reflects that this was an invading army,

* Hist. of the War, p. 33. f Sketches of the War, p.

will be inclined to admit, that, even had the whole column been destroyed, the Americans would have met their deserts ; or, if disposed to commiserate the poor soldiers, to wish that their places had been filled by the American president, and the 98 members of the legislature who voted for the war.

The chief part of the British troops had been withdrawn to the town, which was about three quarters of a mile from the scene of explosion. After ordering the destruction of the ammunition, naval stores; and the new ship that was building, general Sheaffe left directions with a lieutenant-colonel and major of militia, who were residents in the town, to treat with the American commander, for terms ; and then, with the regulars and such of the militia as were not residents, retreated across the river Don, in the direction of Kingston.

According to the last article of the capitulation;—the whole number of prisoners delivered up amounted to 293 ; yet one American editor has made the number of prisoners " 750," and his two contemporaries " 920 ;"—and this, although the whole amount to which general Dearborn could swell the British force opposed to him, was " 700 regulars and militia, and 100 Indians." Our loss in killed and wounded is stated by the Americans at " 250 ;"—no doubt an exaggeration ; as the loss of the regulars,

according to the official returns, scarcely exceeds half that amount ; and 40 of these, were killed or wounded by the accidental explosion of a wooden powder-magazine, the head of which had been carelessly left open. Mr. Thompson says, the British wounded were left in the houses, and " attended to by the American army and navy surgeons ;"—but this is extremely doubtful, because the fifth article of the capitulation expressly provides, " that such surgeons as may be procured to attend the wounded of the British regulars and Canadian militia, shall not be considered as prisoners of war."

The Americans state their own loss at 14 killed, and 32 wounded in battle, and 38 killed, and 222 wounded by the explosion ; making a total loss, on shore, of 52 killed, and 254 wounded. Among those who fell by the explosion were general. Pike, seven captains, seven subalterns, two aides-de-camp, and one volunteer. The squadron lost three killed, and 11 wounded ; which makes the aggregate American loss, at the capture of York, amount to 334 men... , it is.

General Pike's behaviour, previous to his death, is thus recorded by Mr. Thomson :—" As he conveyed him to the water's edge, a sudden exclamation was heard from the troops, which informed him of the American, having supplanted the British, standard in the garrison. He ordered

* Sketches of the War, p. 43. 1—App. No. 18.

pressed his satisfaction by a feeble sigh, and after being transferred from the *Pert* schooner to the commodore's ship, he made a sign for the British flag, which had then been brought to him, to be placed under his, head, and expired without a groan."* Considering the immense superiority of numbers, by which, after a long and desperate struggle, the feat of supplanting the flag was achieved, the officiousness of the American editor has conferred more of ridicule, than of honor, upon the last moments of his hero.

It was fortunate that the British brig *Prince Regent* had departed from the harbor, about three days previous to the attack. As it was, the Americans got possession of a small brig hulk, the *Duke of Gloucester* ; without very large repairs, unseaworthy. A considerable quantity of naval stores and provisions, which had not been destroyed, also fell into the enemy's hands. The American editors are loud in boasting of the lenient conduct of the troops towards the inhabitants and their houses ; when, in fact, they set fire, not only to the public buildings, civil as well as military, but to a tavern at some distance from York; and were proceeding upon the same charitable errand to Uatt's mills, had they not been deterred by information of Indians being in the neighbourhood. It has never been sufficiently explained, why the British co▶n-

* Sketches of the War, p, 125.

mander-in-chief had not ordered the fortifications to be put in order, and an adequate garrison stationed, at a post where, not only a considerable quantity of naval and military stores was deposited, but a comparatively large ship of war building for the lake. Even the two companies, or 180 men, of the 8th, had merely halted at York, on their way from Kingston to Fort-George ; and, had the Americans delayed the attack one day, the latter would have had a still smaller force to contend with. The capture or destruction of " the frigates said to be building there," was the very purpose that carried the Americans to York ; otherwise, they would, no doubt, have proceeded direct to Fort-George ; that being considered as the great bull ark of Upper Canada.

On the 1st of May the Canadian territory in the neighbourhood of York was entirely evacuated. To carry away the prisoners being found inconvenient, the latter were paroled and left behind ; and a small schooner was despatched to Niagara, to apprize general Lewis, then in command at that place, of the result of the expedition against " the capital of Upper Canada," and of the intended approach of the troops towards the Four-mile creek. The prevalence of contrary winds detained commodore Chauncey and the fleet in York harbor, till the

* Sec p. 132.

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8th ; when they set sail, and arrived at the creek late on the same afternoon.

After disembarking the troops, the commodore proceeded, with the wounded men, to Sackett's Harbor ; there to obtain reinforcements. Between the 11th and 22d of May, the vessels of the .fleet made frequent trips between Sackett's Harbor and Niagara, each time loaded with troops ; and, on the 25th, the commodore, in the Madison, with 3.50 artillerymen and a number of heavy pieces of ordnance on board, arrived at the latter place ; having left the Pert and Fair American schooners, to watch the movements of the British at Kingston. The latter, however, as was well known to the Americans, could not leave port with their ships, till a supply of seamen arrived from Quebec.

On the 26th commodore Chauncey reconnoitred the intended point of landing on the Canada-side; and, at night, sounded the shore, and placed buoys to point out the stations of the different vessels of his fleet. The whole of this service the commodore performed, to his surprise no doubt, without the slightest molestation; owing, it seems, to a scarcity of ammunition at Fort-George, as well as to an apprehension, that a fire from that fort might bring on a return from the shipping, and from Fort-Niagara, to the destruction of Newark. A considerable number of new boats had recently

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been launched at the Five-mile meadows, on the American shore ; and several others had been provided, and were in readiness to receive the troops.

The British force upon the Niagara-line now amounted, sick and well, to about 1800 regulars, and 500 militia. The former consisted of the 49th regiment, and of detachments from the .8th, 41st, Glengarry, and Newfoundland regiments, and royal artillery ; the whole under the command of brigadier-general Vincent, major-general Sheaffe's successor. Of this force, eight companies of the 49th, five companies of the 8th, three companies of the Glengarry, and two of the Newfoundland regiment ; also a few additional gunners from the 41st regiment, and about 30 royal artillery, with two 3, and five 6-pounders, and a 5-1 inch howitzer ; the whole amounting to less than 1000 rank and file ; were stationed at Fort-George. At the same post, also, were about 300 militia, and 40 Indians.

Since the surrender of general Hull, five 24-pounders had been brought from Detroit; four of which were mounted on the three bastions at Fort-George, and the fifth on a battery, *en barbette*, about half a mile below Newark. On the afternoon of the 26th a few shots were fired from some field-pieces at the American newly-launched boats, as they were leaving the

Five-mile meadows to proceed to the rendezvous. This brought on a cannonade from Fort-Niagara ; _which did considerable injury to the block-houses and wooden buildings near Fort-George, as well as to the fort itself.- If the guns at Fort-George were compelled, owing to a scarcity of powder, to remain silent, while comodore Chauncey, on the same evening, was sounding the shore, within half-gunshot, the American editors may well boast that Fort-Niagara sustained no injury whatever.

Daring the same night the American troops embarked in the vessels of the squadron, and in the numerous flat-bottomed boats and scows prepared for the occasion. At four o'clock on the morning of the 27th, major-generals Dearborn and Lewis, with their suites, went on board the *Madison* ; and, " by that time, all the troops were afloat." The number is stated, by one American editor, at " more than 4000;"! by another, at " from 6..-to 7000 ;" consisting of three brigades of infantry, under brigadier-generals Boyd, Winder, and Chandler, strong detachments of heavy, and of light art illery, and a corps of reserve, under colonel M•Comb ; exclusive of the marines of the fleet, under captain Smith, and of 250 dragoons, under colonel Burn, which crossed a little higher up the river. On referring to an American official return of

troops at Fort-George in the succeeding July, we find the number stated at 6635 ;# and this does not include " M'Clure's Baltimore and Albany volunteers,"t mentioned . as forming part of general Dearborn's force on the present occasion. We cannot, therefore, overrate the American force, now advancing to the attack of Fort-George, by fixing it at 6000 men.

intelligence of the enemy's intention to attack Fort-George had been previously communicated by deserters ; and, at day-light. on the morning of the 27th, the American fleet; accompanied by boat-loads of troops, was seen advancing, with a light air from the eastward. towards the light-house on Mississaga-point. The batteries at Fort-Niagara now commenced a heavy cannonade upon Fort-George and Newark ; but ceased firing, soon afterwards, on account of a very heavy fog that intercepted the lien-. In the mean time, two schooners, by the use of their sweeps, had reached their stations at the mouth of the river, in order to silence the 24-pounder, and a 9-pounder, also planted *en bar-bette*, close to Newark. Another schooner stationed herself tote northward of the light-house; and so close to the shore as to enfilade the first-named battery, and cross the fire of the two Other achooners ; and the remaining five schooners

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. III. his App. No. 5.

+ Sketches of the War, p. 131.

t See Plate I.

anchored near to the latter, that-they might cover the landing of the troops, and scour the adjacent plane and woods. The ship Madison, brig Oneida, and schooner Lady of the Lake, also placed themselves, so as to give the best effect to their cannon. These eleven American vessels fought 51 guns in broadside ; including nine long 32 and 18-pounders.

When the fog dispersed, which was not till nearly eight o'clock, the American boats, in three lines, were discovered approaching -towards the One-mile creek ; close to which was the 9-pounder battery. The British advance, stationed in a ravine and copse-wood near this point, consisted of the Glengarry and Newfoundland detachments, numbering about 200 rank and file, under captain Winter of the latter regiment, and 40 Indians, led by their chief Norton. While the American schooners, with their heavy guns, were engaging the 9 and 24-pounder batteries, the British advance fired upon the boats, and compelled the troops in them to lie down for their better security. The fire from the American shipping now committed dreadful havoc among the British, and rendered their efforts to oppose the landing of the enemy's advanced corps of infantry and artillery, under lieutenant-colonel. Scott, quite ineffectual. The Glengarry and Newfoundland detachments were, in consequence, obliged to fall back upon the

left column, stationed in another ravine, about a quarter of a mile in their rear. It is but fair to mention, that the 9-pounder battery, although worked by militia-men, assisted by one gunner of the royal artillery, was most ably served, during the whole period of the enemy's first attempt to land ; nor was the gun abandoned, till nearly all the men stationed at it had been killed or wounded. On the other hand, the 24-pounder, manned also by militia-artillery, and which ought to have sunk one or two of the enemy's schooners, was spiked and totally abandoned, almost at the commencement of the attack.

Let us see how the American editors describe the onset. Mr. Thomson, who is the most diffuse, says :—" When the advance, which consisted of 500 men, was approaching the point of landing, successive volleys of musketry were poured upon it by 1200 regulars, stationed in a ravine. A brisk exchange of shot was kept up for 15 minutes ; the advance, nevertheless, continued to approach the enemy without faltering. Such, indeed, was the eagerness of the troops, that officers and men jumped into the lake and waded to the shore.. Captain Hindman of the 2d artillery, was the first man upon the enemy's territory."* Were this our novitiate in American history, we might suppose the " 1" in " 1200" to have been a typographical surplus.;

* Sketches of the War, p. 132,'

age ; but, being skilled in such matter a, we freely exonerate the American printer.

The remainder of brigadier-general Vincent's force at Fort-George had been divided into two columns ; the left, consisting of 320 of the 8th regiment, and 150 militia, and protected by two ^{or} three light field-pieces, with a suitable detachment of royal artillery, assisted by a few additional gunners of the 41st, was commanded by colonel Myers, deputy-quarter-master-general. This column had been posted in a ravine not far from the point of landing. The right column, consisting of about 450 of the 49th regiment, and 150 militia, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Harvey, deputy-adjutant-general, was drawn up between Newark and Fort-George ; excepting about 50 of the 49th, and 50 of the militia, who were stationed within the fort itself.

The column under colonel Myers immediately advanced, in support of the Glengarry and Newfoundland detachments ; which augmented his force to about 600 men, including Norton and his Indians. About five minutes after the American advance had effected a landing, the boats containing general Boyd's brigade struck the shore. The American troops, now on the beach, amounted to " *only* 1800 men,"* accompanied by several pieces of artillery. As fast as these men attempted to ascend the bank, they were

* Hist of the War, p. 86.

driven back at the point of the bayonet ; till the American ships,' with their heavy discharges of round and grape, had too well succeeded in thinning the British ranks. One American editor describes, in a very handsome style, the landing of general Boyd's brigade.—" Thrice," says he, " with the most persevering courage, was the attempt made, and thrice were they repelled by an enemy more than five times their number."* , General Dearborn in his letter tells us, that the brigades of general Winder and Chandler followed the first brigade " in quick succession. . . 1 The arrival of this reinforcement enabled the Americans, assisted by the confined fire from their shipping, to drive the British left column ; now considerably reduced in numbers. The loss sustained by the detachment of the Sth, under the gallant lieutenant-colonel Ogilvie, amounted to six officers and 198 privates, killed or wounded ; nearly two-thirds of its original number ; and of the 150 militia engaged, there were five officers, and 50 privates, killed or wounded : a sufficient proof that they had emulated the brave Sth. Every mounted Officer in the field but one was wounded ; and that one had his horse shot under him. Colonel Myers had fallen from several severe wounds. **His** place was taken by lieutenant-colonel Harvey, who had left his column under the charge of lieutenant-colonel Plenderleath, with directions

* Hist. of the War, p. 86. f App. No. 22.

to move it forward. This order that gallant officer lost no time in obeying, and meeting the remnant of the left column in its retreat, the whole drew up on the plane.

After the whole of the enemy's force had landed, and formed, a strong detachment of American light troops and riflemen was sent in advance, to cut off the retreat of the British by the two roads leading to Burlington Heights. The main body of the American troops was now seen to move forward, in two columns ; strongly protected by artillery. To attempt a further struggle with such overwhelming numbers would have been the height of rashness ; therefore brigadier-general Vincent, first despatching orders to lieutenant colonel Bisshopp at Fort-Erie, and to major Ormsby at Chippeway, to evacuate their respective posts, and to move, without delay, by Lundy's-lane, to the Beaver Dam, distant about 16 miles from Fort-George, directed the magazines at the latter to be exploded, and the fort, which had already been rendered untenable by the fire from Fort-Niagara, to be evacuated. Unfortunately, the 50 regulars in Fort-George, either less prompt in retreating, than they would have been in attacking, or mistaking the American riflemen for the detachment of the Glengarry regiment, (the two wearing nearly the same uniform,) fell into the enemy's hands. The remainder of the unwounded regulars and militia marched, without the slightest molestation, to

the Beaver Dam ; which place they reached about eight o'clock on the same evening, and were there joined by the garrisons of Fort-Erie and Chippeway.

At about 12 o'clock at noon, the American troops took quiet possession of Fort-George, and the village of Newark. Mr. Thomson describes the ceremony thus :—" General Boyd and colonel Scott mounted the parapet, and cut away the staff ; whilst captain Hindman *succeeded* in taking the flag which the enemy had left flying, and which he forwarded to general Dearborn." This editor states, also, that during the action, 4• few shots were fired from Fort-George, the panic being communicated to the garrison.* The fact Mr. Thomson's countrymen took care to land, where the shot from Fort-George could not reach them, without first passing through the houses of Newark.

According to the return of loss annexed to general Vincent's letter, the Glengarry and Newfoundland detachments lost 48 officers and privates killed, and 66 wounded ; which is upwards of half their united force. • The dreadful state of the 8th regiment, has already been noticed. † If the loss sustained by the militia does not appear in the official returns : it was, however, as we have stated, 85 in killed and wounded. The, total British loss, therefore,

* Sketches of the War, p. 132. ± App. No. 21. Seep. 157.

amounted to 445. Except the men accidentally taken in Fort-George, none of the British unwounded regulars fell into the enemy's hands: although Mr. Thomson has found it convenient to make a contrary assertion. He says :—" He (the enemy) had in killed 108, in wounded 163; 115 regulars were taken prisoners, exclusive of his wounded, all of whom fell into the hands of the Americans ;" and then adds :—" The militia-prisoners, who were paroled to the number of 507, being added to their loss, makes a total of 893." * This nice calculator does not inform his readers, how the above 507 paroled " militia-prisoners" were obtained. We will do it for him. No sooner had the American army got possession of the Niagara-frontier, than officers and parties were sent to every farm-house and hovel in the neighbourhood, to exact a parole from the male-inhabitants, of almost every age. The disaffected were glad of this excuse for remaining peaceably at their homes ; and those who made any opposition were threatened to be carried across the river, and thrown into a noisome prison. We cannot wonder, then, that, by these industrious, though, certainly unauthorized means, the names of as many as 507 Canadians were got ready to be forwarded to the secretary at war ; so as, not only to swell the amount of the loss sustained, but, by a fair

Sketches of the War, p. 131

inference, **of** the force employed, on the part of the British, in resisting the attack. The Americans state their own loss before Fort-George, at 39 killed, and 111 wounded ; which is not a little creditable. to the few regular troops and Canadians, by whom the post was defended.

The extraordinary circumstance of general Dearborn's not stating, in his official letter, that the British were superior in force, would entitle him to praise, had he not, or some clerk at the war-office for him, made a boast of " the advantages the enemy's position afforded him." *—A plane, entirely exposed to a cross-fire of shot and shells, was an advantageous position, truly ! —Even Mr. O'Connor, so dexterous at making " advantages," knew better.— He prefers telling his readers of the " host" .of British; Against which the American troops had to contend ; and, when disposed to enter more into detail, adopts his favorite expression,— " an enemy more than five times their number." Mr. Thomson, rather more modestly, says :—" The action was fought by inferior numbers on the American side : " but doctor Smith gives no numbers at all ; leaving his readers to draw their own inference from the lavish encomiums he bestows upon " the firmness and gallantry" of the American troops.

When any extravagant statement connected

* App. No. V.

With the war appears in an American newspaper, the credit of inventing it generally falls upon the cabinet at Washington ; but we never expected to have the thing so completely confirmed, as it is by a paragraph in a " confidential" letter from general Wilkinson to the American secretary at war. , " To secure," says the general, " a favourable issue to these enterprises without much.)oss of blood, the demonstrations of fear and alarm on our part will be continued, by more than the ordinary means of military deception, *in which you may be able to assist me, powerfully, through the medium of the prints known to be friendly to the war.*" This peep behind the state-curtain- enables us to trace the authors of ,a piece-of " military deception," extracted 'br 'O'Connor, along with other garbage, from one " of the prints known to be friendly to the war," in order to grace the pages of his " *Impartial History.*" " Prior to the taking of Fort-George," says this " faithful" historian, " three Americans in the camp who refused to bear arms, were, by order of colonel Clark, taken out, and without ceremony *shot !* This infernal scoundrel met his deserts soon after:—he was killed at the time of the surprise of generals Winder and Chandler." —The fact is, the only " colonel Clark,". was Thomas Clark, a lieutenant-colonel of the 2d

* History of the:War, p. 88.

Lincoln militia ; who was not, and, if he were, could not " order," at Fort-George. • Instead, too, of having been " killed at Stoney creek," he is, or, at the date of the last accounts, was, still living in Upper Canada. The officer referred to as subsequently " killed," was major Alexander Clerk, then of the 49th, and now alive. It remains only to add,.4hat this officer was not present at the taking of Fort-George.

On arriving at the Beaver Dam, general Vincent was joined, not only by the remainder of his command from Cjiippeway and Fort-Erie, but by one flank and one battalion company of the 8th, and by captain Barclay, of the royal navy, and 19 seamen, on their way to Lake Erie. Thus reinforced, the major-general had with him about 1600 rank and file. With the view of cutting off this force, general Dearborn despatched forward major-general Lewis, at the head of two brigades of infantry, the whole of the light artillery and riflemen, and 250 dragoons ; making a total of nearly 4000 men. These arrived at the dam too late, general Vincent being then far advanced on his way to the head of Lake Ontario; where he intended, if possible, to make a stand. The arrival of intelligence, on the night.of the 28th, that the enemy was approaching in force, occasioned the destruction of a furtherquantity cif ammtinition and provisions ; and the troops had to continue

their retreat towards Burlington Heights, with only 90 rounds of ammunition per gun. Foiled in their purpose, the American troops advanced along the river-road, and took possession of the already abandoned post of Fort-Erie. Leaving a small garrison there, under lieutenant-colonel Preston, of the 12th United States' infantry, general Lewis, with the remainder of his army, returned to Fort-George. Thus we have the fulfilment of the "third object" in the American plan of operations exhibited at a preceding page.*

It is now time to draw the reader's attention to the opposite end of Lake Ontario ; where, by the strenuous exertions of sir James Lucas Yeo and a party of officers and seamen, who had just arrived from England, our vessels in Kingston were manned and equipped, in a sufficient manner to enable them, led by so able a commander, once more to appear on the lake. If any thing could add to the general joy upon this occasion, it was sir George Prevost's consent to a proposition for employing this acquisition of naval strength in a combined attack upon the important post of Sackett's Harbor ; now considerably weakened in its defences, by the absence of commodore Chauncey's fleet, and of the numerous army which had recently been stationed there.

Early on the morning of the 27th of May,

* See p. 132.

every arrangement being complete, the vessels of sir James Yeo's fleet, having on board the troops for the expedition, consisting of the grenadier-company of the 100th regiment, a section of the Royal Scots, two companies of the 8th, four companies of the 104th, one company of the Glengarry's, and two companies of the Canadian Voltigeurs ; also, a small detachment of the Newfoundland regiment, along with two 6-pounders and their gunners, numbering altogether less than 750 rank and file, left the harbor of Kingston, and arrived off Sackett's Harbor at about noon on the same day. The weather was extremely fine, and the wind was a moderate breeze, calculated for carrying the vessels, either towards or from the shore. The squadron, with the Wolfe, having sir George Prevost on board, as the leading ship, stood in about two miles, to reconnoitre the enemy's position. While the squadron was lying to, the troops were embarked in the boats, and every one was anxious for the signal to pull towards the shore. After waiting in this state of suspense for about half an hour, orders were given for the troops to return on board the fleet. This done, the fleet wore, and, with a light wind, stood out on its return to Kingston.

About 40 Indians, in their canoes, had accompanied the expedition. Dissatisfied at being called back without effecting any thing, parti-

cularly as their unsophisticated minds could devise no reason for abandoning the enterprise, they steered round Stonev-point, and, discovering a party of troops on the American shore, fearlessly paddled in to attack them. These consisted of about 70 dismounted dragoons, who had just landed from 12 boats, which, along with seven others that had pulled past the point and escaped, were on their way to Sackett's Harbor. As soon as the American troops saw the Indians advancing, they hoisted a White flag, as a signal to our ships for protection. The latter immediately hove to; and lieutenant Dobbs, first of the Wolfe, stood in with the ship's boats, and brought off the American dragoons, along with their 12 batteaux.

This fortuitous capture was deemed an auspicious omen; and sir George. Prevost determined to stand back to Sackett's Harbor. What little wind there was had now veered more towards the land; so that, with all their exertions, the larger vessels of the squadron were unable to get within eight miles of the point of attack, or six of their station in the forenoon. The troops were, however, again placed in the boats; and, before day on: the morning of the 29th, the latter advanced towards the shore, covered by the gun-boats, under the orders of captain Mulcaster.

As pone of the preceding facts are stated

in colonel. Baynes's letter,* some doubts may be entertained of their authenticity. We have only to assure the reader that, not only officer on board the fleet knows the account, as we have given it, to be true in the main; but all the American accounts concur in stating, that the British appeared off the port on two successive days. One editor remarks, indeed, that the delay and indecision on our part brought in from the neighbouring counties a considerable number of militia; and who, naturally thinking we were afraid, "betrayed great eagerness to engage in the contest."

Sackett's Harbor bears from Kingston, on Lake Ontario, south by east; distant in a straight course, '25, but, by a ship's course, 35 miles. It stands on the south-east side of an expansion of the Black River, near to where it flows into Hungry Bay. The harbor is small, but well sheltered. From the north-west runs out a low point of land, upon which is the dock-yard, with large storehouses, and all the buildings requisite for such an establishment. Upon this point there is a strong work, called Fort Tompkins; I having within it a block-house, two stories high: on the land-side it is covered by a strong picketing, in which there are embrasures. At the bottom of the harbor is the village, containing from 60 to 70 houses: to

* App. No. 23.

- t See Plate III.

the southward of it' is a barrack, capable of containing 2000 men, and generally used for the marines belonging to the fleet. On a point eastward of the harbor, stands Fort-Pike,* surrounded by a ditch, in advance of which there is a strong line of picketing. About 200 yards from the village, and a little to the westward of Fort-Tompkins, is Smith's cantonment, or barracks, capable of containing 2500 men; it is strongly built of logs, forming a square, with a block-house at each corner, and is loopholed on every side. This was the state of Sackett's Harbor at the date of the attack ; at which time, also, many of the guns belonging to the works had been conveyed to the other end of the lake. Towards the middle of 1814, there were three additional works, Fort-Virginia, Fort-Chauncey, and Fort-Kentucky; as well as several new block-houses ; and the guns then mounted upon the different forts exceeded 60.

Being without proper guides for the coast, the troops disembarked, by mistake, upon Horse Island;* where the grenadier-company of the 10th, which formed the advance, meeting with some-slight opposition from a 6-pounder, mounted *en barbette*, as well as from 3 or 400 militia; stationed at that point, carried the 6-pounder before a second discharge -could be fired from it, and drove the American militia with precipi-

t See Plate III.

tation into the woods. The whole of the British now quickly landed, although completely filaded by a heavy gun upon Fort-Tompkins.* The captured 6-pounder was unfortunately of no use, as the British artillery-men were still with their two field-pieces, in a merchant-vessel, which had not yet been able to reach the point of landing.

The behaviour of the American militia seems to have provoked Mr. Thomson's ire. " Though they were well protected by the breastwork," says he, " they rose from behind it, and, abandoning the honorable promises of noble daring, which they had made but a little while before, fled with equal precipitation and disorder. A strange and unaccountable panic seized the whole line ; and, with the exception of a very few, terror and dismay were depicted in every countenance."† This forms a cheering contrast to the behaviour of the Canadian militia at Fort-George. Of the volunteers who had been associated with the Sackett's Harbor militia, about 80 halted to fire a volley or two from behind a large fallen tree,* and then nimbly followed their companions.

Colonel Young, of the 8th regiment, taking with him about half the troops that had landed; penetrated the wood to the left, while major Drummond, with the remainder of the troops,

* See Plate III. † Sketches of the War, p. 143.

proceeded by the path to the right, through which the Americans had fled. Colonel Young and his men, who could not have amounted to more than 380, soon found themselves in a narrow road, flanked on the right by a thick wood, and on the left by a perpendicular bank of ten or fifteen feet.* Here they were engaged by such of the volunteers as had rallied, the dismounted dragoons amounting to 313, and a part of the regular troops ; ' making a total of at least 500 men. After a slight skirmish, these fell back to the main body of the American troops, stationed upon the open ground, near the barracks. Major Drummond, who had met with little or no opposition in scouring the wood, now formed a junction with colonel Young, and soon compelled the whole of the American regulars, volunteers, and militia, to abandon one of their guns, and to retreat into the log-barrack and stockaded fort. A. force of at least 1000 men, thus favourably posted, and assisted by the heavy guns upon the batteries, could do no less than cause severe destruction in the British column, which had no artillery whatever. But these obstacles were nothing to British troops ; and, so hopeless did the Americans consider their case, that lieutenant Chauncey had already set fire to the navy-barracks, the prize-schooner duke of Glo'ster, and the ship General

* See f. f. Plate III. i Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 554.

Pike, and had completely destroyed the naval stores and provisions which had been captured at York.

The American editors say, that general Brown, who commanded at Sackett's Harbor, adopted the following stratagem to deceive the British general. Silently passing through the wood which led towards the point of landing, he evinced an intention to gain the rear of the British forces, to take possession of the boats, and effectually to cut off their retreat. This, the Americans say, convinced sir George Prevost of the vast superiority of the American force, and induced him to give the order to retreat ; and general Wilkinson adds: " I have understood from good authority, that lieutenant-colonel at this time major Drummond, of the 104th, who was afterwards killed at Fort-Erie, stepped up to him, and observed,—' *Allow me a*
few minutes, sir, and I will put you in possession of the place.' To which sir George replied,—' *Obey your orders, sir, and learn the first duty of a soldier.*' Sir James Yeo was also averse to the retreat, and the occasion gave rise to the animosity which afterwards existed between those officers, and drew on sir George the contempt of the army."* The American force at Sackett's Harbor when the British landed, and which force was actually brought into action in defending the post.

* Wilkinson's Mem. Vol. I. p. 585.

amounted, by general Wilkinson's account, to 787 regular troops, and 500 militia and volunteers.. As soon after the reluctant British troops had turned round to obey their general's order, as the Americans could assure themselves that they were not in a dream, the latter hastened to repair the mischief which their rational fears had set them to committing. Lieutenant Chauncey extinguished the fire in the prize-vessel and the new ship. In the Pike, indeed, owing to her being built of green wood, the fire had made very little progress ; and, had we *kept* possession of the place, that fine ship might have been launched by ourselves : for which express purpose sir James Yeo had actually embarked a number of shipwrights and artificers.

Soon after the British troops had retired to their boats, a reinforcement of 600 Americans arrived at the post, and other troops were every instant expected ; but still our occupation of the forts, Tompkins and Pike, would have enabled us to resist every effort of the Americans, till our fleet had anchored in the harbor. The Americans say that, in the course of the morning, we " sent in a flag-, with a peremptory demand for the surrender of the post, but which,"—as might indeed be supposed,—" was as peremptorily refused."†

* Wilkinson's Memoirs, Vol. I. p. 585.

† Sketches of the War, p. 145.

Our loss in this unfortunate expedition was no slight aggravation. We had 50 men killed, and 211 wounded ; and the British official returns * expose us, very fairly to the following observation by an American editor :—" The precipitation of his flight was such, that he left, not only the wounded bodies of his ordinary men upon the field, but those of the dead and wounded of the most distinguished of his officers." The Americans acknowledge to have had a loss of 20 regulars and two volunteers killed, 84 regulars wounded, and 26 missing ; which, added to 25 militia killed or wounded, makes a total loss of 157.†

To the great mortification of the inhabitants of Kingston, they saw their fleet return into port on the morning of the 30th, with, instead of the whole garrison of Sackett's Harbor, and its immense naval and -military stores, about 100 American officers and privates, including the 70 who had surrendered themselves the day previous. Out of the columns of strictures which one set of colonial newspapers devoted to the investigation of this disgraceful failure, not the slightest imputation is attempted to be thrown upon the behaviour of the troops concerned in it. They rushed eagerly on shore, drove the American militia like sheep, compelled the enemy to destroy his navy-bar-

*App. No.1.3.

Sketches of the War, p. 143.

racks, stores, and provisions ; and, in ten minutes more, would have been in quiet possession of the town ; but instead of that, to the indignation of the British, joy of the Americans, and surprise of both, the bugle sounded a *retreat*. * * * *

What should we have gained by even the temporary possession of Sackett's Harbor? The American fleet, having no port to which it could retire, would have been compelled to fight, and sir James Yeo, having the Pike to add to his squadron, or even without her assistance, would *have* conquered with ease. The British Ontario fleet no longer wanted, its officers, seamen, and stores, would have passed over to Lake Erie, and averted the calamity there : that done, they would have repaired to Lake Champlain, and prevented the *Saranac* that flows into it, from becoming so famous. - The least benefit of all would have been, the saving to the nation of the incalculable sums expended *in* the building of ships, and the transportation of ordnance-stores.* Some will *feel* that the national pride would have been **no** loser ; and able politicianS could, perhaps, expatiate upon fifty other advantages that would have accrued to us, had we retained, for a few days only, the posSession of Sackett's Harbor Nq•

• The sentiments of the Americans themselves

A See James's Naval Occurr. p.185.

upon the subject may be taken from the pages of one of our three historians. " After being compelled," says Mr. Thomson, " to relinquish the further prosecution of an expedition, having for its primary object the capture and destruction of a post, the permanent possession of which only could give to the Americans any hope of a superiority on Lake Ontario ; after having succeeded in his enterprise, in a degree which scarcely deserves to be termed partial; and after being obliged, by the predominance of his apprehension over his bravery and foresight, to retire from the assault, and precipitately to leave his dead and wounded to the mercy of his enemy ; general sir George Prevost issued an official account to the people of Canada, and forwarded despatches to his government, in each of which he laid claim to a brilliant and unparalleled victory ;* and alleged, that he had reluctantly ordered his troops to leave a beaten enemy, whom he had driven before him for three hours, because the co-operation of the fleet and army could not be effected. General Brown's stratagem had so far succeeded *in* deceiving him, that he reported the woods to have been filled with infantry and field-pieces, from which an incessant, heavy, and destructive fire had been kept up, *by* a numerous and

* This assertion is not warranted by colonel Baynes's Official letter. See App. No.

almost invisible foe, more than quadruple in numbers* to the detachments which had been taken from the garrison of Kingston ; and that his loss was, nevertheless, very far inferior to that of his antagonist. Had the result of the expedition against Sackett's Harbor been of that character of unparalleled brilliancy, which would have entitled it to the encomiums of its commander, and to the warmest admiration of the British nation, its effects would have been long and deplorably felt by the American government. Immense quantities of naval and military stores, which had, from time to time, been collected at that depot ; the frames and timbers which had been prepared for the construction of vessels of war, and the rigging and armaments which had been forwarded thither for their final equipment; as well as all the army-clothing, camp-equipage, provisions, ammunition, and implements of war, which had been previously captured from the enemy would have fallen into his hands. The destruction of the batteries, the ship then on the stocks, the extensive cantonments, and the public arsenal, would have retarded the building of another naval force; and that which was already on the lake in separate detachments, could have been intercepted, in its attempt to return, and might

Sir George's General Order, dated Kingston, May 30th.

* These were destroyed by lieutenant Chauncey.