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## COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

*Downing-Street, March 3, 1813.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, were this day received by the Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bart. Governor-General and Commander in Chief of the Forces in North America.

*Head-Quarters, Chambly, November 21, 1812.*

MY LORD,  
**I** HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship, that the efforts of the enemy at Sackett's Harbour, on Lake Ontario, enabled them to send out, on the 10th instant, seven sail of armed vessels, manned by the crew of one of the American frigates, and commanded by some of their naval officers, having on board a considerable detachment of troops for the purpose of carrying the port of Kingston by surprise, and of destroying His Majesty's ship *Royal George*, then lying there.

I have much satisfaction in reporting to your Lordship, that the vigilance and military skill of Colonel Vincent, who is in command at Kingston, frustrated their designs, and after many hours of ineffectual cannonade the American flotilla hauled off, and on the following day returned into port; I have also the honour to report to your Lordship, that, having received information of the advance of the enemy with their whole force of regulars and militia encamped at Plattsburgh, from that place to the village at Champlain, about six miles from the province line, with the avowed purpose of penetrating into this frontier, I directed the brigade of troops at Montreal, consisting of two companies of the royals, seven companies of the 8th, or King's, four companies of the Montreal volunteer militia, and the 5th battalion of the embodied Canadian militia, with one troop of volunteer cavalry, and a brigade of light artillery, the whole under the command of Colonel Baynes, to cross the St. Lawrence and advance to the support of Major-General De Rottenburgh, whose front was threatened by this movement of the enemy; the troops crossed with uncommon expedition on the evening of Thursday last, the 19th instant, and reached La Prairie that night.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that, immediately upon the alarm being given that the enemy were advancing, the sedentary militia flocked in from all quarters with a zeal and alacrity which I cannot too much praise, and which assures me that I shall derive essential assistance from them when the occasion shall require it.

The enemy, since the advance to Champlain, have made several reconnoissances beyond the lines into the province; one in particular, on the night of the 19th, with a detachment of cavalry, and a body of about one thousand of their regular infantry, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Pike, who is esteemed in the United States an able officer, but falling in unexpectedly with a small party of Voyageurs and Indians, one of our advanced pickets, by whom they were fired upon, they were thrown into the greatest confusion, and commenced a fire upon each other, which was attended with a loss of about fifty of their men in killed and wounded, when they dispersed. Our picket made good their retreat unmolested, and without a man being hurt; by several deserters who have since come in to us, and some of whom were of the reconnoitring party, we have ascertained their loss, and that but a small proportion of the militia accompanied them that night to the lines; the others having wavered respecting advancing beyond them.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST.

*Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.*

*Head-Quarters, La Prairie, November 23, 1812.*

MY LORD,  
SINCE my last report to your Lordship from Chambly, the vigour of the enemy's operations against Lower Canada has gradually declined, and terminated on the 22d, at noon, in a complete retreat, which was effected in two divisions on that and the following day, upon Plattsburgh, Burlington, and Albany; at which places, I am informed, they propose to take up their winter-quarters.

I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship copies of the General Orders I have issued to the militia of Lower Canada upon this occasion, as I cannot more properly bring their active loyalty and their desire to maintain the rights of their Sovereign be.