



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1813.

COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, July 24, 1813.

CAPTAIN M'Doual, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, arrived this day with dispatches, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following are copies and extracts.

Head-Quarters, Kingston, Upper Canada, May 18, 1813.

MY LORD,
I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Lordship, copy of a dispatch which I have received from Major-General Sir Roger Sheaffe, containing the particulars of an attack made by the land forces, and the flotilla of the enemy, upon York, in Upper Canada, on the 27th ult.

The enemy left York on the 8th instant, and proceeded to Niagara, where I understand they landed, on the American side of the Lake, one thousand two hundred men, under General Dearborn, for the purpose of strengthening their army on that line, and probably with a view to make a further attempt on Fort Erie or Fort George. The flotilla afterwards returned to Sackett's Harbour, where I find, from a flag of truce, which came over the day before yesterday, they remained on the 14th.

From the information I have received from an officer of the Lake Marine taken at York, and sent over in the flag of truce, I find the enemy's force at Sackett's Harbour, amounts to near five thousand men, and that they were making preparations for another expedition, but to what point the attack was to be directed I have not been able to ascertain.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c.

SIR,

Kingston, May 5, 1813.

I DID myself the honour of writing to your Excellency, on my route from York, to communicate the mortifying intelligence that the enemy had

obtained possession of that place on the 27th of April. I shall now give your Excellency a further detail of that event.

In the evening of the 26th, information was received that many vessels had been seen to the eastward. Very early the next morning they were discovered lying to, not far from the harbour: after some time had elapsed they made sail, and to the number of sixteen of various descriptions anchored off the shore, some distance to the westward. Boats full of troops were immediately seen assembling near their Commodore's ship, under cover of whose fire, and that of other vessels, and aided by the wind, they soon effected a landing, in spite of a spirited opposition from Major Givens and about forty Indians. A company of Glengarry light infantry, which had been ordered to support them, was, by some mistake (not in the smallest degree imputable to its Commander) led in another direction, and came late into action. The other troops, consisting of two companies of the 8th or King's regiment, and about a company of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, with some militia, encountered the enemy in a thick wood. Captain M'Neal, of the King's regiment, was killed while gallantly leading his company, which suffered severely. The troops at length fell back; they rallied several times, but could not maintain the contest against the greatly superior and increasing numbers of the enemy. They retired under cover of our batteries, which were engaged with some of the enemy's vessels that had moved nigher to the harbour. By some unfortunate accident the magazine at the western battery blew up, and killed and wounded a considerable number of men, and crippled the battery.

It became too evident that our numbers and means of defence, were inadequate to the task of maintaining possession of York against the vast superiority of force brought against it. The troops were withdrawn towards the town, and were finally ordered to retreat on the road to Kingston: the powder magazine was blown up, and the new ship, and the naval stores destroyed. Lieutenant,