

siderable force. The Indians, however, previously to the assault, withdrew themselves from out of the reach of the enemy's fire.

The handful of His Majesty's troops employed on this occasion, displayed the greatest bravery; nearly the whole of them having reached the fort, and made every effort to enter it; but a galling and destructive fire being kept up by the enemy, within the block-houses and from behind the picketing, which completely protected them, and which we had not the means to force, the Major-General thought it most prudent not to continue longer so unavailing a contest: he accordingly drew off the assailants, and returned to Sandwich, with the loss of twenty-five killed, as many missing, and about forty wounded. Amongst the former are Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Shortt, and Lieutenant J. G. Gordon, of the 41st regiment.

I am happy to be able to acquaint your Lordship, that it appears by further accounts received from Major-General Procter to the 23d instant, that the enemy had been disappointed in an attempt to create distrust and disaffection amongst our Indian allies, by a deputation of Chiefs, sent by them for that purpose, and that in a talk, which took place between the Deputies from the American Indians and the Chiefs of our Indian warriors, the contempt with which General Harrison's proposals were received by the latter, and the determination expressed by them of adhering to the cause of their Great Father in England, appeared sensibly to affect the Deputies, and affords strong grounds to believe that the nations whom they represented will not be induced to take up arms against us, or their Indian brethren acting with us.

On my arrival at this frontier, I found two thousand British soldiers, on an extended line, cooping up in Fort George, an American force exceeding four thousand men: feeling desirous of ascertaining in person the extent of the enemy's works, and of viewing the means he possessed for defending the position he occupied, I ordered a general demonstration to be made on Fort George, to commence by the attack and surprise of all the American picquets thrown out in its front. This service was executed to my entire satisfaction; the picquets were driven in, a great part of them being taken, with a very trifling loss, and I found myself close to the fort, and the new entrenched camp which is formed on the right of that work, both of them crowded with men, bristled with cannon, and supported by the fire from Fort Niagara, on the

opposite side of the river; but no provocation could induce the American army to leave their places of shelter, and venture into the field. Having made a display of my force in vain, a deliberate retreat ensued without a casualty.

Since I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 1st instant, every possible exertion has been made by Commodore Sir James Yeo, but in vain, to bring the enemy's squadron to a decisive action: repeatedly has he offered them battle, and as repeatedly have they declined it, which their great superiority in sailing, together with the light and baffling winds prevailing on the Lake at this season, has enabled them hitherto effectually to do. He, however, was fortunate enough, on the night of the 10th instant, to get so close in with the enemy, as to render an action inevitable, unless they chose to sacrifice two of their schooners in order to avoid it; to this sacrifice they submitted, and Sir James had the satisfaction, after a few shots had been fired, to take possession of two very fine schooners, the one carrying one long thirty-two-pounder and two long sixes, and the other one long thirty-two-pounder and one long twelve, with a complement of forty men each. Having proceeded to York for the purpose of refitting his prizes, he sailed from thence with them in pursuit of the enemy on the 13th instant, and having followed them down the Lake on the 17th again saw them on the 18th, but was unable to come up with them. On the night preceeding that of the capture of the above vessels, two of the enemy's largest schooners, carrying nine guns each, overset and sunk, in carrying sail, to keep from our squadron, and, excepting sixteen persons, all on board perished, in numbers about one hundred.

Sir James Yeo, has been into Kingston with his squadron, to take in provisions and refit, and since sailing has cruized off York and Niagara, but has not seen any thing further of the enemy's fleet.

I understand that Commodore Chauncey, with his squadron, after the loss of his schooner in the night of the 10th, returned to Sackett's Harbour, from which place he sailed suddenly on the 14th, and again returned to it on the 18th, pursued by our fleet. I have not yet been able correctly to ascertain whether he has since left it.

Downing-Street; November 13, 1813.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His