

Commodore Chauncey, has been frustrated by the lateness of the season and severity of the weather.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST.

*Head-Quarters, Montreal,
25th Nov. 1813.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter from Commodore Sir James Yeo, together with Captain Barclay's official account of the action on Lake Erie, referred to in my dispatch to your Lordship of 22d September and 8th October last. I am happy to be able to add, that Captain Barclay is recovering of his wounds, and that there is a prospect of his valuable life and services being preserved for the benefit of his country.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

*The Right Honourable Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.*

*His Majesty's Ship Wolfe, at Kingston,
November 15, 1813.*

SIR,

I YESTERDAY received Captain Barclay's official statement of the ill-fated action in Lake Erie, and as your Excellency must wish to be informed of every particular, I have the honour to enclose a copy of the same; it appears to me that though His Majesty's squadron were very deficient in seamen, weight of metal, and particularly long guns, yet the greatest misfortune was the loss of every officer, particularly Captain Finnis, whose life, had it been spared, would, in my opinion, have saved the squadron.

I have the honour to be, &c.

JAMES LUCAS YEO, Commodore.

*His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Bart.
Governor and General in Chief.*

*His Majesty's late ship, Detroit, Put-in
Bay, Lake Erie, Sept. 12, 1813.*

SIR,

THE last letter I had the honour of writing to you, dated the 6th instant, I informed you, that unless certain intimation was received of more seamen being on their way to Amherstburg, I should be obliged to sail with the squadron, deplorably manned as it was, to fight the enemy (who blockaded the port) to enable us to get supplies of provisions and stores of every description; so perfectly destitute of provisions was the post, that there was not a day's flour in store, and the crews of the squadron under my command were on half allowance of many things, and when that was done there was no more. Such were the motives which induced Major-General Proctor (whom by your instructions I was directed to consult, and whose wishes I was enjoined to execute, as far as related to the good of the country), to concur in the necessity of a battle being risked, under the many disadvantages which I laboured, and it now remains for me the most melancholy task to relate to you the unfortunate issue of that battle, as well as the many unward circumstances that led to that event.

No intelligence of seamen having arrived, I sailed, on the 9th instant, fully expecting to meet the enemy next morning, as they had been seen among the islands; nor was I mistaken: soon after daylight they were seen in motion in Put-in-Bay, the wind then at south west, and light, giving us the weather-gage. I bore up for them, in hopes of bringing them to action among the islands, but that intention was soon frustrated, by the wind suddenly shifting to the south east, which brought the enemy directly to windward.

The line was formed according to a given plan, so that each ship might be supported against the superior force of the two brigs opposed to them. About ten the enemy had cleared the islands, and immediately bore up, under easy sail, in a line abreast, each brig being also supported by the small vessels. At a quarter before twelve I commenced the action, by firing a few long guns; about a quarter past the American Commodore, also supported by two schooners, one carrying four long twelve-pounders, the other a long thirty-two and twenty-four-pounder, came to close action with the Detroit; the other brig of the enemy, apparently destined to engage the Queen Charlotte, supported in like manner by two schooners, kept so far to windward as to render the Queen Charlotte's twenty-pounder carronades useless, while she was, with the Lady Prevost, exposed to the heavy and destructive fire of the Caledonian, and four other schooners, armed with long and heavy guns, like those I have already described.

Too soon, alas! was I deprived of the services of the noble and intrepid Capt. Finnis, who soon after the commencement of the action fell, and with him fell my greatest support; soon after Lieutenant Stokes, of the Queen Charlotte, was struck senseless by a splinter, which deprived the country of his services at this very critical period.

As I perceived the Detroit had enough to contend with, without the prospect of a fresh brig, Provincial Lieutenant Irvine, who then had charge of the Queen Charlotte, behaved with great courage, but his experience was much too limited to supply the place of such an officer as Captain Finnis, hence she proved of far less assistance than I expected.

The action continued with great fury until half past two, when I perceived my opponent drop astern, and a boat passing from him to the Niagara, (which vessel was at this time perfectly fresh) the American Commodore seeing that as yet the day was against him, (his vessel having struck soon after he left her,) and also the very defenceless state of the Detroit, which ship was now a perfect wreck, principally from the raking fire of the gun-boats, and also that the Queen Charlotte was in such a situation, that I could receive very little assistance from her, and the Lady Prevost being at this time too far to leeward, from her rudder being injured, made a noble, and, alas! too successful an effort to regain it, for he bore up, and, supported by his small vessels, passed within pistol-shot, and took a raking position on our bow; nor could I prevent it, as the unfortunate situation of the Queen Charlotte prevented us from wearing; in attempting it we fell on board her; my gallant First Lieutenant Garland was now mortally wounded, and