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COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, October 10, 1814.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, was yesterday received from Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bart.

Head-Quarters, Montreal,
August 27, 1814.

MY LORD,

THE successful result of the gallant enterprise against the enemy's small vessels laying off Fort Erie, as detailed in the enclosed extract of a dispatch from Lieutenant-General Drummond, having encouraged the expectation that a favourable period had arrived for attacking the enemy in their entrenchments, the Lieutenant-General was induced to order an assault upon Fort Erie, and the works connected with it, before the break of day on the 15th instant.

It is with deep concern I have now to acquaint your Lordship, that notwithstanding there was the fairest prospect of success at the commencement of the attack, our troops were afterwards obliged to retire without accomplishing their object, and with very considerable loss.

To Lieutenant-General Drummond's official report on this subject (a copy of which I have the honour of transmitting), I beg leave to refer your Lordship for the causes of our failure. It is however highly satisfactory to know that until the unfortunate explosion took place, and until His Majesty's troops, by their near approach to the abbatis in front of the entrenchments, met such difficulties in penetrating as were found to be unsurmountable without the aid of light, they behaved with their usual gallantry and discipline, and had gained, by their determined efforts, advantages which accident alone appears to have compelled them to forego.

By accounts from Lieutenant-General Drummond to the 18th instant, I find he has since the 15th been joined by the 82d regiment, and that the 6th was on its way to, and would probably be with

the right division by this time, together with other reinforcements which are proceeding thither.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

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

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant-General Drummond, to His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Bart. dated Camp before Fort Erie, August 13, 1814.

I HAVE great satisfaction in acquainting your Excellency, with the capture of two of the three armed schooners which were anchored off Fort Erie, and which very much annoyed our left flank. This enterprise was executed in a very gallant style by Captain Dobbs, and a party of about seventy seamen and marines, who embarked last night in six batteaux, which I had caused to be carried across to Lake Erie for that purpose.

I have this morning opened the fire of the battery on Fort Erie, and though the distance is found to be great, yet I hope a sufficient effect will be produced.

Camp before Fort Erie,
August 15, 1814.

SIR,

HAVING reason to believe that a sufficient impression had been produced on the works of the enemy's fort, by the fire of the battery which I had opened on it on the morning of the 13th, and by which the stone building had been much injured, and the general outline of the parapet and embrasures very much altered, I determined on assaulting the place; and accordingly made the necessary arrangements for attacking it, by a heavy column directed to the entrenchments on the side of Snake-Hill, and by two columns to advance from the battery and assault the fort and entrenchments on this side.

The troops destined to attack by Snake-Hill, (which consisted of the King's regiment and that of De Watteville's, with the flank companies of the 89th and 100th regiments, under Lieutenant-Co-