

He was accompanied from Albany to Sackett's Harbour by the zealous and energetic governor of the State who displayed his anxiety to assist him in every way. They were much delayed by bad roads as the autumn rains had already set in. The *Oneida* was quite ready for service but the gunboats were not yet fully armed. Woolsey was sent away to Oswego to purchase several more schooners. One hundred seamen then on the road from Albany were ordered to that port to bring them on as soon as they were ready. "The mail comes to this place but once a week, Chauncey wrote soon after his arrival, "and the deputy-postmaster is an ignorant cobbler, who suffers the letters to be examined by any person who chooses to go into his shop, consequently letters to public officers may be purloined by spies or other ill-disposed persons without difficulty."

The movement of men, guns and stores had been greatly delayed by bad roads and low water in the Mohawk River and Wood Creek. Growing impatient at this loss of time, Chauncey went to Oswego but returned immediately as none of the guns or stores had yet arrived.²

On the evening of November 2 a strange sail was reported looking into Henderson's Harbour seven miles distant. As an unarmed transport was then expected from Oswego loaded with guns and stores of value Chauncey became alarmed for her safety and ran out in the *Oneida* in the hope of intercepting this hostile ship. The night was very dark with occasional squalls of rain. At daybreak he was within five miles of Kingston and when the morning mist cleared away the *Royal George* and two schooners were seen riding at anchor about the same distance to windward. Chauncey then stood southward until in sight of Oswego when he ran back to port along his own shore and was much relieved to find that his transports had safely arrived.

By this time he had obtained information which satisfied him that his squadron would be much superior in men and guns to any force he was likely to meet. Accordingly on November 8, he sailed again with the *Oneida* and six schooners, mounting in all forty guns and carrying 430 men. His first object was to intercept any vessels that might be returning from the head of the lake. If successful in this, he would then make a dash at Kingston which he hoped to take by surprise. Steering for the False Ducks he soon came in sight of the *Royal George* and chased her into the Bay of Quinte but lost sight of her in the darkness. During the chase a merchant schooner was seen lying at a wharf at Errisstown where she was burned by a schooner detached for that purpose. On the morning of the 9th the *Royal George* was again discovered in the channel heading for Kingston. As the wind blew

¹ Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, Sackett's Harbour, Oct. 6, and Oct. 8.

² Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, Oct. 21.