

Sackett's Harbour for that purpose. Like his predecessor, the new commander had served under General Dearborn at Fort George in the summer of 1813, and was not disposed to neglect any means of strengthening his position.

On the 4th of August Major-General Conran, who had arrived from Kingston a day or two before to take the place of Major-General Riall as second in command to General Drummond, was thrown from his horse and disabled for duty. This accident proved the more serious as Colonel Stuart of the Royal Scots, who came from York to replace him, was prostrated by ague on the day after his arrival, and Colonel Scott of the 103d, through resentment for some real or imaginary slight, insisted on resigning the command of the brigade to which he had been appointed. As Drummond himself was still suffering from the unhealed wound received at Lundy's Lane the loss of these experienced officers was of serious importance.

On that day also the American squadron on Lake Ontario appeared off the mouth of the Niagara. The British armed schooner *Magnet*, returning from York with troops on board, was intercepted and driven ashore near the Ten Mile Creek, where she was burnt by her crew. Considerable alarm was excited in the garrisons of the forts and the movement of troops was delayed for several days in consequence. On the evening of the 7th, however, Commodore Chauncey sailed down the lake, leaving three of his largest brigs to blockade the British vessels in the Niagara river and cut off communication by water with York.

Gaines brought over detachments of the 1st and 4th Rifle Regiments from Buffalo amounting to about 400 men, with whom he made a vigorous sortie on the afternoon of the 6th. The British Indians stationed in the woods fell back upon the advanced picquets, who also retired until they were supported by the Glengarry Light Infantry, when the American riflemen were driven back and the ground re-occupied. During this conflict the American schooners cannonaded the British position and one of their shot striking the ground near the place where General Drummond and Lieut.-Colonel Harvey, his Deputy Adjutant-General, were standing, the latter was severely wounded in the face by a splinter, which injured one of his eyes.

By the night of the 8th a breaching battery for two guns was completed on the bank of the river about twelve hundred yards from the north-eastern salient angle of the fort. This position was so much exposed that it was found necessary to shelter it in front by a traverse and *abattis* before arming it. It still remained open to the fire of the American schooners in flank and their batteries at Black