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jesty's late squadron, captured on the 11th inst. by the United States' squadron, under my command. Also, my despatches relating to that occurrence, which should have been in your possession at an earlier period, but for the difficulty in arranging the different statements.

The squadron under my command now lies at Plattsburgh—it will bear of considerable diminution, and leave a force sufficient to repel any attempt of the enemy in this quarter. I shall wait your order what to do with the whole or any part thereof, and, should it be consistent, I beg you will favor me with permission to leave the lake, and place me under the command of commodore Decatur, at New York. My health, (being some time on the lake,) together with the almost certain inactivity of future naval operations here, are among the causes for this request of my removal.

I have the honor to be,

Sir, with much respect,

Your most ob't servant,

T. MACDONOUGH.

Hon. William Jones, secretary  
of the navy, Washington.

(Copy.)

United States' ship Saratoga,  
Plattsburgh Bay, Sept. 11, 1814.

SIR,

I have the honor to give you the particulars of the action which took place on the 11th inst. on this lake.

For several days the enemy were on their way to Plattsburgh, by land and water; and it being understood that an attack would be made at the same time by their land and naval forces, I deter-