

upon their main body, which was posted in a thick wood some distance in rear, while the 5th United States Infantry, under Colonel Pinckney, crossed Lyon's Creek and moved along the edge of the woods with the intention of taking the British in the flank and capturing their field piece. Myers at once retired some distance in the hope of drawing them out into the open ground, which had the effect of inducing them to advance to the skirt of the woods and display two strong columns on his left and one on his right, which began a heavy fire of musketry. To this Myers replied, mainly with his field piece and rocket section, with considerable effect on their close formation. In half an hour, perceiving no intention on their part to leave the shelter of the woods, where he did not consider it advisable to attack them, Myers withdrew his troops to these cantonments, keeping his outposts close to their position to observe their movements. In this affair he lost only one man killed and thirty-five wounded, including Captain McMillan of the Glengarry Light Infantry. General Bissell reported the loss of twelve killed, fifty-four wounded, including five officers, and one prisoner, but claimed to have successfully repelled the attack made upon him. On the morning of the 20th he was joined by a reinforcement of two regiments of infantry, but believing that he was likely to be soon attacked by a superior force he commenced his retreat the same day without destroying the mills or any private property except a quantity of grain which he was unable to remove, which led Drummond to remark that the enemy had throughout his advance been "studiously cautious in abstaining from his burning and plundering system" so noticeable in the earlier part of the campaign. Next day a party of American troops advanced within view of the fortifications at Chippawa, probably with the object of covering the retreat of their army from Black Creek, which began at noon that day. Meanwhile Drummond had decided to move against them with his whole force available for service in the field, which was organized for that purpose into two brigades, one consisting of the Royal Scots, 90th, 97th and flank companies of the 41st, and De Watteville's, with three field guns under Major-General Stovin, the other composed of the 6th, 82d, 89th, 100th, Glengarry Light Infantry, Incorporated and Sedentary Militia with three guns commanded by Major-General de Watteville. With these troops he began his advance at daylight on the 23d, but learning from his cavalry scouts that the entire American army had fallen back to the heights opposite Black Rock, and the weather having turned very cold during the night, he returned to his cantonments. General Izard began to recross the river at once, but was delayed by a strong gale from the southwest, lasting two