

were to be built. Depending upon the current of the St Lawrence to sweep them to the island of Montreal, the oars placed in them were more for steering than rowing; crews to manage them were drawn from the sailors of New England ports and New York. French Canadian voyageurs, who volunteered freely, were secured as pilots. What was going on was not unobserved by the British, and an attack on Sackett's Harbor was planned. On the 28th May, 1813, its garrison sighted a fleet which had crossed from Kingston. Landing a considerable body of troops the assault was delivered next day from both land and water, and was being crowned with success when the Governor, Sir George Prevost, who accompanied the expedition, got into one of his fussy panics and, to the disgust of his officers, ordered the recall of the attacking forces. But for Prevost, the campaign of the Grand Army of the North would have ended that day.

It was obviously unnecessary to concentrate all the soldiers designed for taking Montreal at Sackett's Harbor. It would save the building of many boats were the army divided, the larger part to go in the boats, which, after landing them near or on the island of Montreal, would cross the St Lawrence and ferry over the other portion of the army, which would be waiting their arrival on the southern bank. This plan not only saved the building of many boats, but had the further advantage that, in menacing Canada by two separate columns, the attention of the British commanders would be distracted. So it was decided the invading army should go in two columns, to meet at an agreed point convenient to Montreal.

### **Hampton**

The point chosen for assembling the co-operating corps, the eastern column, was Burlington, on the shore of lake Champlain. Here troops came in slowly. The war was unpopular in New England, which, consequently, furnished few regiments for the regular army. The militia, which each State was compelled to raise, were not available for the expedition in hand, for a condition of militia service was that they should be sent to no foreign country. The consequence was, the eastern column depended on troops raised south and west of New England, the majority coming from Virginia. There