

kept under arms, and it soon became evident that the resources of the Province would be insufficient to feed them. Great efforts were consequently made to draw the needful supplies from the enemy's country ; which, in fact, proved more successful than could have been reasonably expected. Large quantities of provisions, forage, and grain were quickly brought across the frontier by American contractors, at a time when their own armies seem to have been suffering considerable privation from the lack of these articles. Even a much needed supply of bullion was readily obtained from the same quarter. "The supply of gold or silver during the last twelve months," the Governor-General wrote on the 18th March, 1814, "has been extremely scanty ; such, however, as it has been, it has proved of the greatest utility, many articles of indispensable necessity to the troops not being able to be procured without it ; and I am in hopes that, either from Halifax or the United States, I shall be enabled to collect a sufficient sum during the present year to meet the demands that shall be made for it ; and to lessen the amount of army bills now in circulation."

Less than two months later, Commissary General Robinson reported that he had obtained from the United States since the beginning of the year £150,000 in specie in exchange for bills on the treasury at various discounts from $17\frac{1}{2}$ to $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

It was probably as much a desire to interrupt this extensive commerce with the enemy as the difficulty of subsisting his own army on the Salmon river, that induced Wilkinson to break up his camp at that place about the middle of February, sending one brigade to Sackett's Harbour and removing the remainder to Burlington, Vt. Soon finding that small detachments were insufficient for the purpose, he determined to establish a cordon of troops along that entire frontier. On March 8th, Colonel Clark was despatched with 1,000 infantry and 100 mounted rifles to occupy the country between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut river, while Major Forsyth was detailed with 300 riflemen and 60 dragoons to watch the lines west of the lake, as it was stated, "with a view to cut up by the roots the smuggling intercourse which had been carried on to a great extent, besides it was necessary to prevent the constant supply of provisions which were daily passing to the enemy from this state."¹

Within a few days Clark received information that an attack was

¹ *Vermont Republican*, 12th March, 1814.