

mined to return to the camp and the retreat was accomplished in such haste that five wounded men were left behind in the woods where they were found and made prisoners by the Indians. Their total loss was unofficially reported to amount to two killed, thirteen wounded and five missing. Some forty deaths from disease contracted on the expedition were subsequently added to the account. Several deserters came into the British advanced posts within a few days and gave the usual exaggerated accounts of the affair in which they represented that more than fifty men had been killed or wounded.\*

At best Dearborn could scarcely have expected to accomplish more than the surprise of an unimportant outpost but the actual result was most disastrous to the morale of his troops already much weakened by sickness and unpleasant weather. Three thousand militia had been induced to advance as far as Rouse's Point but two-thirds of them had positively refused to enter Canada. One company had actually accompanied Pike's force to the boundary and then declined to go further.†

The movement from Plattsburg had been made in sufficient strength to indicate that a serious invasion was contemplated, and on November 22, Prevost published a general order warning the whole of the militia of the province to be in readiness for active service. Colonel John Murray was directed to advance on the Odelltown road with a company of the 8th and 300 men of Cuthbert's battalion of militia. Lieut. Colonel Deschambault crossed the river from Lachine to Caughnawaga with the battalions from Pointe Claire, Riviere du Chene, Vaudreuil and Longue Point and marched to L'Acadie. The sight of several hundreds of prisoners belonging to the regular army of the United States, taken at Detroit at Queenston, passing down the St. Lawrence on their way to Quebec had done much to reanimate the confidence of the people and the sedentary militia assembled with unmistakeable alacrity and good will. The opportune arrival of a transport from England with a large supply of muskets and accoutrements furnished the means of arming and equipping many of them who were quartered in the villages near Montreal. Prevost was no doubt fully justified in declaring that "the whole population manifests the most cheering spirit of loyalty and the most animated determination to oppose with all their might the entrance of the American army into Canada."‡

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\*Prevost to Bathurst, Nov. 21; Prevost to the Duke of York, Nov. 30; Christie, *History of Canada*, Vol. II, pp. 52-3; Whiting, *Life of Pike*; *Canadian Courant*, 1812; *Quebec Mercury*, 1812.

†Ingersoll, *History of the War*, I, p. 121.

‡Prevost to de Salaberry, Nov. 21; Prevost to Bathurst, Nov. 21; Prevost to Sheaffe, Nov. 23; Prevost to the Duke of York, Nov. 30.