

an unfinished state at Black Rock, there can be but little confidence placed in their safety. The yard is within reach of the enemy's batteries, and if finished, the vessels could be cut to pieces in passing up the rapids into the lake." \* \* \*

It will be remembered that Commodore Chauncey commanded on Lake Erie as well as Ontario, and continued in command until after the battle, in fact, until April, 1814.

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## CHAPTER II.

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ABOUT the 1st of January, 1813, Chauncey, accompanied by Henry Eckford (Naval Constructor) officially visited Erie—approved the work of Mr. Dan'l Dobbins and gave instructions to get out timber, and prepare for the building of two "sloops of war;" which additional work was rapidly pushed, and the keels ready to lay, with much of the timber on hand, when Mr. Noah Brown, master ship builder from New York, with a gang of twenty-five carpenters, arrived about the 10th of March.

In a letter from Mr. Dobbins to the Department under date of March 14th, 1813, we find the following, viz: \* \* "The keels of the two sloops of war are ready to lay, with most of the timber on hand—the gun boats are ready for calking, and everything looks encouraging in that respect; and yet, I have