

tance between Fredrickton and the St. Lawrence, confronting hardships, to which the march of the Guards in January, 1862, was but a holiday freak. During the winter months the Americans had been exceedingly active not only in preparing troops but in preparing to obtain the supremacy of Lake Ontario. England had not even yet realised the full gravity of the situation, though the Canadians did. Indications were that Toronto, then known as York, was to be attacked. It contained a little less than 1,000 souls, and a garrison of about 600, 200 or 300 regulars, and the rest Militia. On the 25th of April Commodore Chauncey and General Dearborn left Sacketts Harbor with sixteen sail and conveying a land force of 2500 men. Videttes had for some time before been on constant watch, with order to fire alarm guns, and then ride into town, on sight of a hostile fleet. It was late in the evening of April 26, when the first report hushed every voice, and for a moment startled the whole population. But the men of York paused not long, old and young rushed to arms. On the first alarm General Sheaffe got his men in hand, and awaited what the morning would bring forth. But York was incapable of defence, in fact all the troops then in Western Canada would have been insufficient. He therefore made the necessary preparation for meeting the enemy, and if hard pressed, to save his force, destroy all public property, and retire either on Burlington Heights or Kingston, according to the developements of the enemy. At early dawn the American Squadron was seen bearing down on