

lakes were now the most active scene of American warfare, and various spirited conflicts, though on a small scale, occurred on their coasts and waters. A party of the American army having taken post near the fort of the rapids of the Miami, a river flowing into Lake Erie, Colonel Proctor, on the 23d of April, embarked with a force of regulars and militia, consisting of between eight and nine hundred, to whom were joined about twelve hundred Indians, and sailed for the Miami. In consequence of heavy rains he was not able to open his batteries till the first of May, at which time the enemy had so well secured himself by blockhouses and batteries, that no impression could be made on him. Whilst Colonel Proctor was still lying there, a reinforcement of American troops, to the number of 1500, under the command of Brigadier General Clay, descended the river, made a sudden attack upon him, aided by a sally of the garrison. For a few minutes the enemy was in possession of his batteries, and took some prisoners; but after a severe though short contest, they were repulsed, and the greatest part, except the party from the garrison, were killed or taken. Colonel Proctor could not preserve his situation at the Miami, being deserted by the Indians.

An attempt upon the American post at Sacket's Harbour in Lake Ontario was planned by Sir George Prevost about the close of May, and its execution was committed to Colonel Baynes, aided by a fleet of boats under Sir James Yeo. On the night of the 28th, the expedition, composed of draughts from different regiments, and a company of Glengarry light infantry, proceeded from Kingston to the harbour, hoping to land before the enemy should be sufficiently apprized of the attack to line the woods on the coast with troops; but a strong current and the darkness of the night frustrated this purpose, so that at the dawn of day the Americans were fully prepared for their reception. The advance was however made with great gallantry along a narrow causeway connecting the island with the main, and through a thick wood, obstinately defended by the enemy, who were at length driven to their blockhouse and fort, after setting fire to their storehouses near the fort. But in consequence of some mismanagement, accident or misfortune which has not been sufficiently explained to this day, the troops amidst considerable indignation were recalled from the attack and re-embarked, with the loss of about 260 in killed, wounded, and missing.

On the 3d of June, the British gunboats on Lake Ontario, supported by a detachment from the garrison of Isle aux Noix, made prize of two American armed vessels of 11 guns and 50 men each. An action greatly to the credit of the British troops occurred on the 6th of June at Burlington Heights, near the head of the same lake, where Colonel Vincent was posted with a division of troops. Receiving information that the Americans had advanced from Forty Mile Creek with 3,500 infantry and 250 cavalry, and 8 or 9 field pieces, for the purpose of attacking him, he sent Lieutenant Colonel Harvey with two light companies to reconnoitre, and from his report, was led to determine upon a nocturnal attack upon the enemy's camp, about seven miles distant. A force not exceeding 700 firelocks was destined to this enterprize, which terminated in a complete surprise of the enemy, who were dri-