

however desirous of avoiding a halt, he was forced to encamp. Snow had fallen ; it was difficult to discover if the congress troops were approaching. The Indians had become very unreliable ; on the slightest alarm several fled, and on the following day, all that remained abandoned Ross when he started on his march. He had not proceeded far from his last camp when the congress troops entered it. The Indians who had remained behind had only time to save themselves by taking to the woods, and an Indian officer was made prisoner. Three of the officers' servants, who were late in starting, fell into their hands, with the horses they had in charge. The first intimation Ross received of the presence of his pursuers was a shot fired by one of the advance guard. His design was to cross Canada creek and place himself in a position of defence. About two o'clock the congress troops appeared ; they had the advantage of ground, and could follow the tactics they preferred, to fire at a distance. Ross accordingly determined to move forward and find a more favourable position which he could hold, leaving captain Butler of the rangers to cover the line of march. It was a difficult duty. Butler himself fell, and several of his men were killed and wounded, but the congress troops were held at bay.

Ross placed in a state of defence the ground he had taken. After waiting an hour, and his pursuers not having appeared, he concluded that they would not cross the creek. He therefore urged forward his march and reached Carleton-island without further molestation. He arrived on the 6th of November. In this expedition captain Butler of the rangers, two sergeants and ten rank and file were killed ; two sergeants and eleven rank and file were wounded, with forty-nine missing. Ross's operations had been most disastrous for those against whom they were directed. He had destroyed the settlement, which extended over seven miles. Nearly one thousand farms, with three mills, were included in the ruin, with a large public granary, besides cattle and stock of all kinds.

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