

but say I was much pleased with the place, it having all the appearance of a dock-yard, and of being equally as busy. The fleet that was upon the Lakes is being repaired, as likewise several of the vessels that we took from the Americans ; they are laid up in docks, to preserve them from the inclemencies of the winter, and by the ensuing spring, that with the ships we had before, and those we have since taken from the Americans, we shall have a fleet far superior to any they can possibly bring on the Lakes.

“ There are two schooners here, the *Carleton* and *Maria*, which were built in England upon a construction to take into pieces, in order to be transported across a carrying place of about two miles. After their sailing from England to the mouth of the rapids, which prevented their proceeding up to St John's, rather than lose the time of taking them to pieces, and re-constructing them, Lieutenant Schank, of the navy, an ingenious officer, informed General Carleton, that they might be conveyed upon a cradle over land to St John's, entire, provided there was a good road made for them. The General acquiesced in this gentleman's proposal, and the whole army were employed in making a road. One of the vessels was near half a mile on it, by means of cables fixed to windlasses every twenty yards ; but the General perceiving this mode of conveyance would take up more time than the other, gave orders to have the schooners taken to pieces and rebuilt, which was accomplished in as short a space of time as they had been creeping that small distance upon land.

“ Our naval force being far inferior to that which the Americans had this summer upon the Lakes, it was deemed necessary to increase it. The ship-wrights were instantly employed to build a frigate, and the army in cutting the timber for it, and it is now as complete a vessel as any in the King's service. I am afraid you will think I usurp the privilege of a traveller, when I tell you that this frigate was constructed in so short a time, that in eight and twenty days after her keel was laid she was in action ; and what still more wonderful, there were only sixteen ship-wrights to build her, one of whom was, on the third day, so badly wounded with an adze, as to be of little service.

“ You may easily imagine how great must have been the astonishment of the Americans when they came upon the Lakes, knowing we had no such ship when they abandoned St John's. Notwithstanding this, they fought their fleet bravely and our new built vessel, by the