

when he received orders to return to Quebec, and we take leave of him and his Canadians. This interesting stage in the history of the Penetanguishene enterprise affords scope for the fancy as to pioneer conditions and serves to recall, in imagination, the vast extent, influence and power of military and naval operations as well as the sharp contrast between the rapid transit of the present day and the slow conveyance and the tardy transmission of news in those days.

Great events had transpired of vital importance to Canada. It will be remembered that the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States was signed at Ghent on December 14th, 1814, and ratified at Washington on 17th of Feb., 1815; still these war-like and expensive operations on the Georgian Bay continued till within two days of the Battle of Waterloo, in entire ignorance of the fact by the actors concerned. It may also serve to recall the fact of former Governors at cross purposes as one of the factors, possibly, in this sudden change of base. On the 9th Nov., 1814, in a despatch from Drummond to Prevost, in the Archives, he announces his decision to establish a naval post at Turkey Point on Lake Erie, that at Penetanguishene being impracticable. In another, Prevost to Bathurst, Dec. 2nd of the same year, he says, "the naval establishment at Penetanguishene is in operation. Drummond soon discovered how impracticable it would be to construct, at Turkey Point, the two vessels proposed by Yeo." (Archives 1896, pages 44 and 45.) The inspiring motive, however, for the sudden change was the prospect of further trouble with the United States regarding their treatment of the Indians in terms of the recent treaty. A despatch of Aug. 27th, 1815, Drummond to Bathurst, says, "The American officer commanding at Mackinaw, as reported by McDouall, admits that the United States are debarred by treaty from constructing forts upon Indian territory which they did not possess before the war, but still it was determined upon and should be done." (Archives 1896, page 89.) To prepare for this emergency in part and to furnish supplies and provisions for the garrison being erected on Drummond Island, the new post chosen when Mackinaw was surrendered to the Americans on July 17th, 1815, was the ostensible purpose of the sudden change of base and preparations for the erection of the block-house on Willow Creek and the fort at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River.