

Street's Mills at Bridgewater were seen to be in flames, and the retirement of the Americans across the Chippawa, followed by the destruction of the bridge, satisfied Drummond that they were preparing to retreat. Believing that he was still considerably outnumbered, and apparently contented with his partial success, he despatched his cavalry, consisting of a single squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons, supported by a small force of light infantry and Indians, to harass them in their march, but owing to the destruction of the bridges nothing was effected beyond picking up a few stragglers and deserters. The disposal of the dead and the care of the wounded occupied his attention for the next two or three days. The sedentary militia, which had assembled in considerable numbers at the Twelve Mile Creek, were immediately discharged from service to enable them to harvest their crops, which were already suffering from neglect. The 89th Regiment, which had borne the brunt of the battle and was reduced to less than two hundred effectives, was sent back to Fort George, while some weak detachments of the Royals, King's and 41st were brought forward to strengthen the field force, and DeWatteville's Regiment, nine hundred strong, was ordered forward from York. Several days elapsed before Drummond felt prepared to resume operations. On the thirtieth of July an advanced party under command of Lieut.-Colonel Pearson succeeded in surprising an American outpost at the ferry landing opposite Black Rock and captured a number of rowboats it was guarding. The main body of the division, however, did not commence its advance from Niagara Falls until the morning of August 1st. The bridges along the road had already been repaired and Drummond moved forward that day as far as Palmer's tavern, six miles from Fort Erie. Next morning the heights opposite Black Rock were occupied and a camping ground selected on the northern slope of this ridge about two miles from the American works and entirely screened from observation by a belt of trees. From this position the besiegers could easily approach the northern and western faces of the fort and at the same time detach a force to attack the American works by the lake shore without being observed by the garrison. During the afternoon Drummond carefully reconnoitred the enemy's position in person and ascertained that the fort itself had been much enlarged and protected by a parapet of earth and *abattis* on the land side. It was connected with a new battery, which had been constructed immediately in rear of a quarry close to the margin of the river, by a parapet of earth covered by a ditch and line of *abattis*. On the left a similar rampart of earth ran southward to Snake Hill, a mound of sand about twenty feet in height on the shore of Lake Erie, on the