

strong were precise. He was to hold fast to his camp at Four Corners until "we approach you," and Armstrong's subordinate in another letter told him he "must not budge" until everything was matured for the start from Sackett's Harbor. The little army, posted in the bush, with an untrodden wilderness behind them and looking down upon the forest clad plains of Canada, where they knew they would find a foe, chafed in idleness until the 19th October, when a messenger arrived from Sackett's Harbor with a letter ordering Hampton to march to the mouth of the Chateauguay as the flotilla was ready. On the 21st October the advance brigades left Four Corners, after a stay of 26 days. Altho the army was small, not numbering over 4000 effective men, the road was so bad that it took several days to get the whole in motion. A body of militiamen, 1500 in all, who refused to cross into Canada, was left to guard the stores and camp, and to protect the line of communication with Plattsburg.

Brig-General Izard, who led the advance, cut a pathway through the woods. Crossing the country with celerity he suddenly appeared before a blockhouse erected where Ormstown now stands and surprised the guard stationed in it. His men prepared the adjoining clearings for a camp, and next day the leading regiments with part of the baggage-train appeared and occupied it. There had been a decided change in the weather. The prolonged drouth had ended and heavy rains had converted the road, over which long trains of wagons and a battery of artillery had to be dragged, into a quagmire. The distance from Four Corners to Spears (whose lot the village of Ormstown now occupies) was only 23 miles, yet it took the army four days to cover. The route lay through a dense bush, broken at rare intervals by the small clearings of recent squatters. Altho the British had been promptly notified the Americans had crossed, no effort was made to harrass them on their march thru' the woods. From Spears downward, along the north bank of the Chateauguay, there was a tolerably continuous succession of clearings. Hampton had full and accurate information from his spies of the opposition he would meet on leaving camp at Spears.

General De Watteville had been sent from Montreal to place every possible obstacle to the advance of the Americans. There was only one road by which they could come, the track that followed the windings of the river. A number of small creeks, in flowing to the Chateauguay, had worn deep chan-