

The North American squadron had blockaded the Atlantic Ports, and prevented the exit of a vessel.

An expedition was forming at the Bermudas for the invasion of the south, which was daily expected to rise.

Another expedition was forming at Halifax, for the invasion of the New England States, or New York.

The allies in Europe had been generally successful, though no decisive battle had been fought. In the east, the entrance of the Black sea had been forced by the allied squadrons, and a naval victory won, resulting in the Russian squadron seeking shelter under the guns of Sevastopol. The allied troops effected a landing at Varna, and were advancing on the Russians at Galatz.

On the 1st July we heard of the landing of the Expedition from the Bermudas, at Norfolk, Va. Fortress Monroe having been silenced after half an hour's bombardment. Simultaneously the Southern Confederacy was proclaimed at Charleston, and a series of most horrible outrages inaugurated, which resulted in driving the detested Yankees from the west side of the Alleghanies. Supplies of arms and ammunition were poured into the south, and a large army formed to co-operate with the British troops. On the 3rd we heard of the landing at Portsmouth, and on the 6th of the occupation of Boston and Portland; these places having surrendered without a struggle to avoid bombardment. Maine was in fact almost neutral, so much of her interests being with Canada. In fact the war was anything but popular. Democrats insisted it was forced on by the Republicans to save their political existence, Germans did not like to fight the allies of Fatherland, and New England wanted peace for their manufacturers. The only thoroughly satisfied classes were the Irish and the Southern sympathizers, and these urged the matter on, at every issue.

The North had assembled an army of 100,000 men at Richmond, another of equal numbers at New Orleans; about the same number were scattered through the south, and the army of invasion of Canada consisted of a similar number, these with the garrisons of lake and sea-ports numbered about 500,000 men, quite as many as they had arms, ammunition and supplies for.

Up to the 6th July we remained in camp at London, on the 7th we were again ordered to Brantford, the Brigades of the 2nd Division being at Sarnia, Chatham, and London.

My leg having healed I was anxious to join my regiment; but was ordered on the staff of the Deputy Quartermaster General at Head Quarters; my professional experience as surgeon qualifying me for such duties. I left my old corps with much regret, and some repining; feelings which I think were shared by my old comrades. I had, however, in the future, a better insight into the conduct of the campaign than I could have obtained in my previous position. Truth to tell, a man may fight all

day and yet not know where or what he has gained or lost. The arms or legs of the army cannot see, try as they may.

But to resume my narrative. In the middle of July we received information of a projected simultaneous invasion at four points, Sarnia, Port Stanley, Port Dover and Port Colborne, 20,000 men landing at each point. At this time, two of our iron-clads were in the Canal, unable to get through, from the destruction of the lock gates at Port Colborne. These were, however, being repaired, and we knew that if this could be accomplished; a landing at Port Stanley or Port Dover could be prevented.

And this leads me to remark on the lamentable economy which had prevented our Government obtaining a few gun-boats before the breaking out of the war. Suitable vessels had been constantly in the market during the economical reign of the Gladstone Bright administration, and a couple of good vessels on each lake would have been of the utmost value. Without them, our shipping on Lake Erie had either been seized, or was shut up in one or two lake ports, chiefly under the shelter of Long Point. And the same remark applies to Lakes Huron and Superior, for the vessels already on those lakes though fitted up at great expense, were not suitable for war vessels. On Ontario, thanks to the exertions of the Yacht Club, and to the absence of any American vessel of war, a small squadron of gun-boats had been fitted out, which so far, had gallantly maintained our supremacy on that lake. The United States Revenue cutters and some tugs armed as gun-boats had all through had the command of Lake Erie, as we had of Ontario, but they had no vessels that could stand against the vessels in the canal.

We worked hard to get them through, and on the 14th succeeded. They at once steamed off for Port Dover and Port Stanley, arriving safely on the 15th, without interruption. On that day we heard of a crossing having been effected at Queenston, our pickets being driven back on St. Catharines. The first Brigade was rapidly concentrated there, while the second replaced them at Port Colborne and Dunnville. With no seeming object, the Yankees spread themselves over the country east of the Welland Canal, pillaging and destroying everywhere, and occasionally coming into contact with our pickets. They burned Clifton and Chippewa; collected a number of tugs and scows at the latter place, and returned to Buffalo after a glorious campaign of four days.

This force was about 5,000 strong. Fearing that it was to further some stratagem, our General would not allow our forces to attack them, although they were crazy to do so. In retaliation for this wanton outrage, about a month later, a combined attack was made by our gunboat flotilla, on Lake Ontario, and the First Brigade, on Fort Niagara, which was destroyed, the garrison taken prisoners, and the villages of

Manchester, Lewiston, and Niagara Falls burned. Before any force could be summoned to interfere with them, our men were again behind the Welland Canal.

I am, however, anticipating the sequence of events. During the past month large camps of instruction had been formed at Toronto, Hamilton, Stratford and other points east, and 100,000 Reserve Militia called out. In these three named, upwards of 25,000 men were rapidly getting into shape; arms and accoutrements, but no clothing had been supplied. This lack was now almost provided for by the energy of local manufacturers; a coarse red cloth blouse and grey trousers being issued, and serviceable great coats being in course of manufacture. In addition to this force, local companies of Home Guards were formed in almost every village, who were provided with arms and ammunition by Government.

It was well for us that our forces were so largely augmented. The invading column opposite Montreal had driven back its defenders gradually until within a few miles of La Prairie, where a series of entrenchments in rear of the Caughnawaga Canal had been thrown up by the inhabitants under the direction of R. E. officers. There a bold stand was made, and incessant fighting kept up, until being re-enforced by some 10,000 men, and siege guns, the enemy made a bold night-attack on the 18th. Receiving notice of this intention the Major General in command, gathered the Reserve Militia and every available fighting man from Montreal, and lined the works, secretly despatching nearly all the Regular, and some 5,000 picked volunteers to Caughnawaga, with instructions to join the force there in a night-march, with a view of turning the enemys flank. This was perfectly successful. The augmented force at Caughnawaga bore down the comparatively small force detailed to watch them, and out-marched them to La Prairie, turning the scale at the most critical period.

The next morning the enemy was in full retreat towards the border. As large reinforcements poured in, it was not deemed prudent to press him too closely with raw troops. He was followed up, however, to his entrenched camp near Hemmingford.

The invading army operating at Prescott had better success. They had forced a path, and were now besieging Ottawa, although with no guns heavier than 12 pounders. Our force at Kingston lay idle all this while, with the exception of one Brigade which was shut up in Ottawa. For them a bold stroke was reserved. Preceded by gun-boats, they embarked on the eventful night of the 18th, forced the enemy's outposts, and took Ogdensburgh cutting off the base of communications of the army operating on Ottawa. Leaving a strong force there, under cover of the gun-boats, the main body crossed the river and marched on Ottawa completely taking the enemy by surprise.

(To be continued.)