

these the brigade major estimated at about 150. It was probably greater. It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open daylight, with 1500, at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of the regular troops was declining rapidly—I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend. I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Col. Parker being sick, those present were Colonel Porter of the artillery, Col. Schuyler, Col. Winder and Lieut. Col. Coles. I put to them this question :—Shall we proceed ? They unanimously decided that we ought not. I foresaw that the volunteers who had come out for a few days, would disperse—several of them had on the evening of the 28th broke their muskets. I foresaw that the number of the regular troops would decrease, the measles and other diseases being among them ; and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced ; directed them to withdraw their troops, and cover them with huts immediately.

You say that on Saturday every obstruction was removed, and that a landing might have been effected without the loss of a single man. This proves you unacquainted with the occurrences of the day. Colonel Winder, in returning from the enemys shore in the morning, lost a tenth part of his force, in killed and wounded. The enemy showed no more than 500 or 600 men, as estimated by Colonel Parker, and one piece of artillery supposed a nine pounder. That force we no doubt might have overcome, but not without loss ; and that, from the great advantage the enemy would have had, might have been considerable.

To recapitulate :—My orders were to pass into Canada with 3000 men at once. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1100 men were embarked, of whom