

In correspondence with the vigorous measures adopted at this time by the British government for the prosecution of the war in other parts of the United States, Sir George Prevost assembled all the disposable force in Lower Canada, and on September 1st entered the State of New York, and occupied the village of Champlain, near the lake of that name. His force was estimated at 14 or 15,000 men, among whom were a number of veterans who had served in Spain; and the Commander and appointments were such as to give sanguine hopes of success. His first operations were directed against Plattsburgh, a fortified place on Lake Champlain, which was garrisoned by the American Brigadier General Macomb, with about 1500 effective men of different descriptions. The British army advanced by slow marches, gallantly surmounting every obstacle thrown in its way by the enemy, and on the 6th had arrived within a mile of Plattsburgh. The following days were occupied in bringing up the battering train, and making approaches; and it was planned that the attack should be supported by the co-operation of the British naval force on Lake Champlain, consisting of a frigate, a brig, two sloops of war, and some gun-boats, under the command of Captain Downie. On the morning of the 11th, this flotilla appeared in sight of Plattsburgh, and bearing down engaged at anchor in a bay off the town; at the same time the land batteries were opened against the fort, and threw in a continued shower of balls and bombs. The British flotilla was opposed by the American Commodore M'Donough, with a force nearly equal, and the conflict was fierce and bloody. Captain Downie was unfortunately killed at the very beginning of the engagement, and the rudder of his ship being disabled, and the brig, commanded by Captain Pring, becoming quite unmanageable, both vessels were left almost to the mercy of the enemy. The result, after an action of two hours, was the capture of the frigate, the brig and the two sloops, after a loss of 84 killed and 110 wounded, Captain Downie and two Lieutenants being among the former. The firing from the land against the fort continued till sun-set, and attempts were made by the parties to advance to an assault of the works, but were foiled. The destruction of the naval force having now put an end to all hopes of success, it was thought necessary by the British General to abandon the enterprise. The cannon were withdrawn from the batteries, and at two o'clock the next morning the whole army began its retreat, leaving the sick and wounded to the humanity of the foe. Great quantities of provisions were likewise left behind and destroyed; and the American accounts spoke of finding on the ground, or concealed, a large quantity of shot, shells, ammunition, entrenching tools, &c. The estimate of loss of every kind sustained by the British troops, as made by the Americans, rises very high; but the return sent by Sir George Prevost, of the loss in action of General de Rottenburg's division, from the 6th to the 14th of September, does not amount to 250. Deserters, who were probably numerous, are not, however, included. The Americans being now collected from all the circumjacent country, the British drew back to their lines, and every idea of penetrating into the territories of the United States on that side was relinquished. Such a conclusion of an expedition from which so much had been expected, naturally excited much dissatisfaction; but,