

greater part of the settlement being Dutch Mennonites, are friendly to the enemy and assist them in everything. We have lately taken a number of their waggons.

"We expect some serious movement every hour, as the enemy are in great force at Fort George. . . . We are driving all the cattle from this part of the district towards the head of the lake. The Chippawa and Short Hills country is stripped of cattle, and to-day they are driving them from the vicinity of the camps. The waggons stand ready loaded with the baggage which moves in the rear."*

On the 6th there was a lively skirmish, in which the light company of the Royal Scots drove Chapin's volunteers through the streets of the village and entered it in pursuit. Colonel Scott, who was in command at Fort George, turned his artillery on the houses, when the Scots hastily retreated. They lost one prisoner and five wounded, while Chapin admitted losing six men killed and ten wounded, besides some prisoners.

Three days afterwards, when De Rottenburg had gone as far as the Twelve Mile Creek on his way to Kingston, he met the panic-stricken adjutant of General Procter's staff, who falsely reported that the whole of his division had been captured, and that the American mounted riflemen were rapidly advancing upon Burlington from the scene of the disaster. This story caused an immediate retreat in much hurry and confusion, although, fortunately for them, there was no attempt at pursuit. As it was, a considerable quantity of stores were destroyed and the sick and wounded suffered dreadfully. "Upwards of 300 men upon the road," says an eyewitness, "and waggons loaded with miserable objects stuck fast in mudholes, broken down and unable to ascend the hills, and the men too ill to stir hand or foot."

The audacity and success with which a protracted blockade had been maintained by a greatly inferior force is indisputable. From the 14th of July until the beginning of October the main army of invasion from which so much had been expected had not only been hemmed in and held in check, but kept in constant terror of attack, while it wasted away with desertion and disease.

"The army at Fort George," says Dr. Mann, who was with it all the time, "consumed the most eligible season of the summer and autumn for effective service cooped within the narrow limits of a few acres of land by a force of the enemy not exceeding one-half of its strength, and, under a constant apprehension of an attack, placed itself wholly in a state of defence. This apparent pusillanimity or want of confidence on the part of the army emboldened the

* Edgar, Ten Years of Upper Canada.