

8th, or King's Regiment, sharing in the dangers and in the honours of the hard-fought battles in Egypt, under the brave and lamented Abercromby. In 1807 we find him as Captain, acting an important part under Lord Cathcart, at the bombardment of Copenhagen, and the capture of the Danish fleet. In 1809 he assisted at the capture of Martinique; and in 1811-12, we find his regiment stationed at Quebec, and forthwith engaged in active service in the second American war.

General Sir George Prevost having succeeded Sir James Craig as Governor-General and Commander of the Forces, Capt. M'Douall very soon attracted his notice, and gained his favour and confidence; so much so, that he appointed him first Assistant Adjutant-General to the Forces in Canada, and afterwards his Aide-de-Camp. In these capacities the Captain saw and was engaged in many active and perilous services. After the war had continued some time, he was sent to negotiate an exchange of prisoners with the American General Dearborn—drew up the treaty himself, and brought back important information favourable to the further operations of the campaign. He shared, with the Commander-in-Chief, the dangers of the attack of Sackett's Harbour, at which the loss of the British was great—Capt Grey, assistant Quarter-Master-General, being killed at his side at the farthest advance.*

Immediately after this he was sent to Upper Canada with instructions to General Vincent, who was on the point of being overwhelmed by the greatly superior force of the Americans. Captain M'Douall, after riding through the woods nearly 300 miles night and day, joined him on the 5th of June. The enemy advanced that evening, with a force of 3,500, to Stonycreek; nine miles in their front, pushing forward 1200 more in boats, by the Lake, to turn their left and rear, and with the fixed intention of overwhelming them next morning at daybreak. General Vincent, with only 1200 disheartened troops, had apparently resigned himself to his fate. At half past 10 at night, Captain M'Douall took his friend Colonel Harvey* aside, pointed out their hopeless situation, and the folly of waiting for certain destruction, when by a dash at the enemy's camp in the night, aided by the terror with which all troops are seized, especially young ones, at being surprised in such a way, they might at least have a chance of extricating themselves, and saving the army. Col. Harvey was convinced—they both went to Gen. Vincent, who assented. Capt. M'Douall immediately got 300 men of the 8th regiment (his own company among them), under arms, with 40 of the 49th, and in ten minutes from leaving the General, they were on their march, without even taking along with them a field piece—and the night pitch dark! They had the good fortune to surprise the enemy's sentries, and about an hour before day were in the middle of their camp before they guessed their danger. Both their Generals, four pieces of cannon and 150 prisoners, were taken, and their force so discomfited and dispersed, that they rapidly fell back on Fort George, where they were cooped up for the remaining part of the campaign. Thus gallant and brilliant affair saved Kingston and the fleet, and gave new animation to those who before were in despair. Col. Harvey, being the senior officer, had the command on this occasion, and in the public despatches he, of course, got the chief merit, but although a very gallant and deserving officer, the above account shows who best deserved it. They both, however, received the warmest thanks of the Commander-in-Chief in general orders, and Capt. M'Douall was ordered home to England with despatches conveying the news of the victory. But just previous to leaving Canada on this errand, a new corps had been embodied;

chiefly composed of Highlanders in the colony, and called the Glengary Light Infantry Fencibles. The Governor General appointed Captain M'Douall to a Majority in this regiment, so that he arrived in London with his despatches as Major M'Douall. This was in 1813, and such was the importance attached to the news of which he was the bearer, and so warmly was he welcomed at the Horse Guards, that he was instantly promoted to the rank of Lieut-Colonel in the army. This was this officer, who only two short months before held the rank of Captain, and on his arrival, the youngest Major in the army, promoted over the heads of all the other Majors in it. He expected, and was most anxious to be able to spare time on this occasion, to pay a short visit to his relatives in Stranraer; but such was the critical state of matters in the Canadas, and such the urgency of the service, that this could not be afforded. This was a grievous disappointment to him, and ever after most deeply regretted, especially as he was thereby prevented from ever again seeing his revered father in life.

During his short stay in London, he in a strong memorial to Lord Bathurst, then Secretary of State for the colonies, represented that if the Canadas were to be preserved to Great Britain, immediate reinforcements, both in troops and seamen, were indispensable. This document had the desired effect. A regiment and 400 seamen were immediately ordered for the service, and also that gallant officer General Sir Gordon Drummond, to take the Command in the Upper Province. These reinforcements were speedily embarked, and Lieutenant Colonel M'Douall sailed along with them for the scene of his former services. On their arrival in Canada, the remote but most important island and fort of Michilimackinac, on Lake Huron, was, from the weakness of its garrison (only 70 men), and the avowed intention of the Americans to attack and take it, in the utmost danger of falling into their hands. The great importance of this post consisted in its being the connecting link between the British and their Indian allies. Lieutenant-Colonel M'Douall was appointed Governor and Commander at this island, and was ordered to proceed immediately, with what force could be spared, for the purpose of defending, and if possible, retaining possession of it. He instantly made ready; and the following in a letter to his brother, is his description of the difficulties and dangers which he encountered in his progress:—

"My expedition to Michilimackinac was full of difficulty, and might almost be said to have been a desperate undertaking. I had to collect boat-builders to take with me, and fixing my hut in the wilderness, on the eastern margin of this lake (Huron), where no civised being had ever been before. I got our little fleet of twenty-nine large boats finished in six weeks. It is scarcely necessary to allude to the many other obstacles that were necessary to be overcome in bringing forward to the boats the provisions, stores, and cannon—some of the latter 600 miles over the snow!

The dangers of our voyage, from fields of ice, and gales of wind, savoured more of romance than sober reality; and what was worse, only 140 men could be spared me, in addition to 70 of a wretched description already at the post. Shortly after my arrival I found that the American Governor Clarke, had seized on the 'Prairie des Chiens,' establishing a fort and garrison in the centre of our Indian allies, whom we must have lost if he was not dispossessed. I hourly expected an attack myself, yet a desperate necessity existed for attempting its recovery. I gave my friend, Colonel M'Kay, the command, who gallantly succeeded, and thus were his Majesty's arms pushed for the first time, to the Mississippi (600 miles distant from Mackina), and the fort maintained there in spite of the repeated efforts of the enemy to retake it, and not given up till the peace. Reduced, as you may well suppose my little force was, I had still the good fortune to preserve Mackina, though attacked by a much larger force

than I ever expected could be brought against me."

Sheriff Allison, in his History of Europe (vol 19—pages 132, 133), thus describes the attack, and the successful defence made by Lieutenant Colonel M'Douall:—

"A most gallant and, in its consequences, very important military event took place next year (1814), in the defence of fort Michilimackinac by a small British detachment, under the command of Colonel M'Douall. This gallant officer had been left in command of this important fort, situated on Lake Huron, which commands, as already mentioned, the communication between the British and the Indians, on the west of Lake Michigan. To ensure its reduction, three different expeditions were set on foot by the Americans at the same time, in spring, 1814; one from Fort Louis, on the Mississippi, one from Detroit, and one from Chicago. M'Douall had only under his command 232 men, of whom sixty were Canadian militia, and 100 Indians. Out of this diminutive force, he fitted out a small body, about 100 strong, under the command of Major M'Kay, of the Canadian militia, who succeeded by extraordinary gallantry, in wresting from the enemy about 500 miles of territory to the westward, and advancing the British standards to the Mississippi, where they captured, and maintained themselves in, a fort erected by the Americans.

"But during their absence, the American cruising squadron, consisting of two ships of 26 guns each, and several large schooners and small boats, hove in sight, under Commodore Sinclair, having upwards of 900 troops on board. To oppose this force, M'Douall had now only 150 men; but such was the ability of the dispositions which he made, that the enemy were worsted in several encounters, and driven back to their ships. And, although reduced to great extremities by a long continued blockade from the hostile squadron, he held out, until Lieut. Worsley succeeded, at the head of four of the garrison boats, in boarding and capturing, during the night, the two schooners which maintained the blockade; and the British having thus got the command of the Lake, the Americans were obliged to raise the siege, and abandon the enterprise.

"This glorious defeat of an invasion so confidently announced, and strongly supported, diffused the most heartfelt joy in Lower Canada, and terminated the campaign there, in the most triumphant manner."

General Sir Gordon Drummond, commanding in Upper Canada, after receiving Lieutenant-Colonel M'Douall's despatches containing the account of this most successful defence, issued the following general order to the troops under his command, dated Camp before Fort Erie, 30th Aug. 1814:—

"Lieut-General Drummond has great satisfaction in acquainting the troops that he has received despatches from Lieut.-Col M'Douall, commanding at Michilimackinac, reporting the repulse and defeat of the enemy, in a combined attack upon that place on the 4th instant.

"On the morning of that day the enemy's squadron, consisting of two ships, four schooners, and several gun-boats, under Commodore Sinclair, which had been off the island for some days, took a position close in shore—the two large vessels, the Niagara, and St. Lawrence, of 20 guns, anchoring with springs on their cables. Under cover of their fire, about 1000 troops, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Croghan, were landed. Lieut.-Col M'Douall did not attempt to interrupt the disembarkation, but leaving Major Crawford with the militia in charge of the fort, he marched out with his 120 men of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, and forty of the Michigan Fencibles, with two field pieces, having a body of Indians on his flanks, and took up a position to cover the fort. The fire of his field pieces having checked the enemy's advance in front, he (the enemy) made a flank movement, with the intention of turning the left of the position which Lieutenant-

* Now Sir John Harvey, Gov. of Nova Scotia.