

the American forces in the Northern States. This measure had been proposed by the Governor, in the hope that the repeal of the orders in Council, of which intelligence had reached America, would have led to an amicable adjustment of the subsisting differences; but the government of the United States, determined, it should seem, to pursue a favourable object, would not consent to a suspension of its operations. The disaster which befell General Hull had disconcerted the plan for the invasion of Canada, but the design was by no means renounced. A considerable force was assembled in the neighbourhood of Niagara, and on the 13th of October, the American General Wadsworth with thirteen or fourteen hundred men made an attack on the British position of Queenstown, on the Niagara River. On receiving the intelligence General Brock hastened to the spot, and led on a few troops for its defence. He had previously sent orders to Brigade-Major, now Colonel Evans, who commanded at Fort-George to batter the opposite American Fort Niagara, which was done so boldly and effectually that the garrison was forced to abandon it. General Brock was unfortunately killed while cheering on his men, and the position was for a time taken by the enemy. Reinforcements, however, being brought up by Major-General Sheaffe, the next in command, the Americans were attacked; and after a short but sharp conflict, in which they sustained a considerable loss in killed and wounded, General Wadsworth surrendered himself prisoner on the field, with upwards of 900 men and many officers, the troops to which they yielded being about the same number. The loss on the part of the British was small, with the exception of General Brock, in whom his country was deprived of an officer of distinguished courage and ability.

Notwithstanding these glaring failures, the American government persisted in its purpose of invading Canada. On the 16th of November General Dearborn broke up his camp at Plattsburg, and marched to Champlain, on the Canada line, the nearest point to Montreal. His troops made several reconnoissances beyond the lines, but with more loss and disaster to themselves than injury to their enemy. These incursions, however, and the length of Dearborn's forces, convinced the Governor that something serious was intended; and, to guard against the menaces of the Americans, directed the whole militia of the province to hold themselves in readiness to meet the enemy at a moments notice. Lieutenant Colonel Deschambault was ordered to cross the St. Lawrence at LaChine with the Point-Claire, Rivière du Chêne, Vaudreuil and Longue Point Battalions, and to march upon L'Acadie. The Volunteers of the first Battalion of Montreal militia, the flank companies of the second and third battalions, and a troop of militia dragoons crossed the river to Longueil and Laprairie, and the whole mass of population in the district of Montreal made a spontaneous movement towards the point of invasion with an enthusiasm unsurpassed in any age or country. Seeing the preparations which were made to receive him, in the event of any formidable attack upon Canada, General Dearborn, on the 22d of November, commenced a retreat with his whole army, which he conducted upon Plattsburg, Burlington and