

In the month of December about 120 ship carpenters came from the lower province to Kingston and York, in order to build 7 vessels on lake Ontario. The government expected to have them finished by the time the ice was out of the lake, which 7, with 4 that were then nearly fit for use, would make a fleet of 11 sail, which it was thought would be sufficient to regain possession of lake Ontario. However, I am fully of opinion that the British will not be able to finish more than 3 before the ice leaves the lake.

Some little time before Hull invaded the province, there was an armistice entered into by the commanders of the armies on both sides of the line, at which time a number of militia were permitted to go home, and which was a joyful thing to them. When this armistice was made known to Mr. Madison he refused to agree to it, and when notice was given of his refusal to the governor of Canada, all the militia were called back. Some time before the battle of Queenston, there was another armistice agreed upon for an unlimited time, but the conditions were such, that if either party wished to commence hostilities, that party should give the other 4 days notice. Immediately upon this agreement, almost all the militia were permitted to go home, and about one half of them had got some miles upon the road, and