

At last the Navy Department had resolved to make a separate command of the Upper Lakes. The change was judicious, though it should have been made a year before.

“NAVY DEPARTMENT, April 15th, 1814.

“SIR:—The arduous duties and great increase of force on Lake Ontario, together with the interruption of intercourse between the commander-in-chief on that lake and the commander of the squadron on Lake Erie, has rendered it expedient to place the latter under a separate command. Captain Arthur Sinclair is, therefore, appointed to the command of the squadron on Lake Erie, to whom you will communicate all the information you possess, and the arrangements you have made for the future operations of the squadron. You will then, sir, agreeable to your wish expressed in your letter to Commodore Chauncey, of the 19th December last, proceed to Sackett’s Harbor and report yourself to him.

“I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

“WM. JONES.

“*J. D. Elliot, Esq., Commanding U. S. Squadron, Lake Erie.*”

Captain Sinclair arrived on then 25th inst., when Elliot, after turning over the command, as instructed, proceeded to Lake Ontario.

Sinclair was a thorough seaman and meritorious officer. He at once commenced to prepare the squadron for the before-named expedition against Mackinaw, though he found it tedious, as the vessels were much damaged and required extensive repairs, particularly the “Lawrence,” she being a complete wreck. However, he managed to make her quite seaworthy, but he made the “Niagara,” the flagship. Captain Daniel S. Dexter taking command of the “Lawrence.”

Mr. Dobbins was now relieved from cruising duty, and ordered to proceed with the “Ohio,” and stores, to Put-in-Bay,