

he has plenty, and axemen and carpenters in abundance. I know what an active enemy may do in that way and they have an idea we may make the attempt. The only alteration I would propose in the means of attack is in some measure to the field artillery to break down any temporary defences, (for such they must be as the season will not admit of any other), which they may in the meantime erect."<sup>1</sup>

At the same time he asked that ten or twelve guns of suitable calibre should be forwarded at once to arm the batteries constructed for the defence of Kingston and York. Four twelve and the same number of long eighteen pounders were accordingly ordered up from Montreal and Quebec. He recommended the immediate construction of a ship designed to mount thirty thirty-two pounder carronades at York and a ship of the same class as the *Royal George* at Kingston. Both of these proposals were approved but considerable delay took place as shipwrights had to be engaged and sent up from Quebec. An experienced builder was appointed superintendent of both dockyards and instructed to proceed to Kingston with 128 shipwrights and carpenters. They arrived at that port on December 28. Fifty were retained there and the remainder sent on to York. Gray's proposal for an attack upon Sackett's Harbour was reserved for further consideration as it seemed doubtful whether so many troops could be detached from the Montreal District without endangering it.

Gray then asked that four more heavy guns should be sent forward without delay "for the preservation of our marine," he wrote, "is a point upon which I feel the greatest anxiety." This request was approved and the officer in command of the Royal Artillery at Quebec was directed to forward two long eighteen pounders and two sixty-eight pounder carronades. Iron-work and naval stores for the two new vessels were at the same time despatched from Montreal.

About the middle of October Prevost had written both the Secretary for War and the Commander-in-Chief strongly urging the necessity of supplying experienced officers and seamen from the Royal Navy to man the ships of war on the lakes. After the attack on Kingston in November, 1812, he renewed this application which had been forcibly supported by Sir John Borlase Warren who had recently assumed command on the North American station. The Executive Council for Upper Canada had also presented an address in which they declared that the maintenance of naval superiority on Lake Ontario was indispensable to the preservation of that province.

Lieut. Colonel Bruyeres, the senior officer of the Royal Engineers in Canada, reported on January 19, 1813, that he had conferred with Colonel John Vincent, then commanding at Kingston "on the measures

<sup>1</sup> Gray to Prevost, York, Dec. 11.