

the season making it difficult to supply the place of the "Ontario." No record, however, remains that inconvenience in this respect was experienced.*

Towards the end of 1781, a force had been organized in the west, under an officer named Clark, to destroy the settlements of the Indians favourable to the British, and, after this design had been successfully carried out, to advance upon Detroit and compel its surrender. Brant, with a strong party of Indians, hearing that the column was on the march, surprised a division on the Ohio, under colonel Lockery. In the attack, 100 of Lockery's men were killed, with the colonel and five officers. The consequence was the entire dispersion of Clark's force.

With a well equipped force St. Leger advanced from lake Champlain to the Hudson. The design appears rather to have been to divert the attention of the congress troops from the more important expedition of major Ross from Oswego. In order to oppose St. Leger, a large force was collected at Albany and Saratoga to operate against him, and it was thus kept inactive during the expedition undertaken by major Ross.

This officer, a captain of the 34th, having attracted the attention of Haldimand by his zeal and capacity, had been appointed major of the 2nd battalion of Sir John Johnson's regiment, and placed in command at Carleton-island. In April he was transferred to Oswego. On leaving Carleton-island in April he had to force his way through the ice, until he reached the open lake. His *bateaux*, with stores, arrived at Oswego on the 17th; the troops on the 20th. The fort was immediately placed in a defensible condition, and preparations were made so that he might undertake any expedition held to be expedient.

As it was evident that the designs of congress were directed to the possession of the western posts and stores were being gathered on the Mohawk, it was determined to destroy the supplies by which the expedition could be sustained. Ross

* [Can. Arch., B. 55, p. 19. Haldimand to Germain, 20th November, 1780.]