

**CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF THE
WAR OF 1812.**

J. VROOM.

XXI.—The Capture of Oswego.

May 6.—When the lakes were again clear of ice, in the spring of 1814, Sir James Yeo had two new vessels added to his fleet. They were large frigates, which had been built at Kingston. With these and his other six ships, he had a decided superiority over Chauncey.

Yeo's fleet left Kingston on the third of May, having on board over a thousand men commanded by General Drummond. This force was sufficient for the reduction of Oswego, though it was not large enough to justify an attack on Sackett's Harbour. The capture of either place was supposed to be worth the effort. The greater part of Chauncey's fleet was at Sackett's Harbour; Oswego was an important depot for naval stores.

Oswego was not strongly garrisoned at the time, but was defended by a fort, which stood in a commanding position on high ground, and by an armed vessel which lay in the mouth of the river.

The ships reached the place on the fifth, and sent out boats to draw the fire of the batteries. An attack in force was to have been made at eight o'clock in the evening; but a heavy gale from the north compelled them to keep off shore until next morning. This delay allowed the defenders to carry away some part of their stores, and to sink their armed vessel, with the seven heavy guns which she carried, hoping in that way to save her from being taken by the British.

On the morning of the sixth, the storm having abated, the British fleet returned to the attack. Men were landed under a heavy fire from the fort. A part of the defenders, however, had already begun their retreat; and, in ten minutes from the time when the attacking party reached the top of the hill, the fort surrendered. Its guns were destroyed, the barracks burned, the sunken vessel raised and carried off, with her guns on board, and a large quantity of ammunition and provisions seized. The fleet returned to Kingston with the spoils. Sir James Yeo then sailed for Sackett's Harbour, where he arrived on the nineteenth, and began a strict blockade.

While the capture of Oswego was creditable to the British and Canadian troops engaged, especially to the Glengarries, whose conduct on the occasion added to their renown, yet it was of no great importance in its results. Its chief object was to check the supply of guns and ammunition for Chauncey's fleet; but the guns and naval stores which Chauncey needed reached him by another route, and before long he was again able to challenge the supremacy of the British fleet on Lake Ontario. Had he followed up his advantage when the time for action came, the battle of Lundy's Lane might have had a different ending—but that is another story.

A TALK ON WRITING.

ELIZABETH WILSON.

This article is not intended to set forth any new or complete system of writing, but I have been asked to tell you something of my methods of teaching this subject, and I do so, hoping that what I have found useful in my own school-room may in some way help you.

This paper deals entirely with slant writing, and where the words, "straight lines," are used, *of the required slant*, is always understood.

I believe we are all striving to obtain the forearm muscular movement, and when we succeed in getting a good position of the body, and the proper pen-holding, we are more than half way to the goal.

POSITION.—The writing position must be a natural one in order to be untiring, and I'll outline here, as clearly as I can, what I find to be very good. Sit well back in the chair, with body erect, soles of the shoes flat on the floor, and arms hanging straight from the shoulders; bend forward slightly from the hips, but do not lean against the desk; raise the arms over desk, elbows out, and drop them naturally; raise right arm, and bend forearm at right angles with upper arm, and drop again.

HOW TO HOLD THE PEN.—The next part concerns the pen holding. Hold the pen lightly, using the thumb and first two fingers. Straighten out the first finger, and press the pen against the side of the second finger, opposite the nail. The pen-point should project an inch, or a little more, beyond the end of the first finger, and the pen-holder should cross the hand just back of the