

The governor-general on hearing of the Americans having invaded Canada left Kingston and hurried to the front, riding in with his staff while the Americans were pouring their harmless volleys into the breastwork. Prevost waited until he saw them execute the movements that broke their formation and fall into line to march to the field where they were to pass the night, when he left for DeWatteville's headquarters.

Interest again centres on Purdy's movements. He had gathered his men on a wooded point that jutted into the river. On the land side he had made a barricade of brush and fallen trees where a rear-guard covered him from such another attack as an hour before had nearly routed his brigade. His plans were made—he would send his wounded across on rafts and then make a floating bridge of the logs and fallen trees that lined the bank and so rescue his little army. As rafts were finished his wounded were lifted on them and ferried to the north bank, while axemen were rushing the floating bridge by which the troops were to escape. This took time, so it was dark before fit for use. Purdy sent a message to Hampton asking for a regiment to cover the crossing of his men, for the Indians had crept up towards him and were watching his movements, firing whenever they saw a mark. The messenger returned with the information that Hampton and his command had gone into camp for the night a mile west of the frail bridge Purdy had expected would be his path to safety. He was intensely provoked. In his report he exclaims "I was deserted, without the smallest guard to cover my landing." About a hundred had crossed the bridge when, on bullets beginning to come thick its use had to be abandoned. Those who got over found their way to the camp as also did the wounded. There was no help for it but endeavor to reach the ford at Spears, which meant repeating the dreadful ordeal of the night before, with the additional horror this time of being tracked by Indians. The floating bridge was torn apart, and the march began, the men starving and exhausted by fatigue. The march had not lasted half an hour when Purdy found it was absolutely necessary to give them rest. Getting them into a compact mass, and posting sentries, the wearied men slept. What followed Purdy describes: "We rested undisturbed until about midnight, when the enemy came up and made an attack upon us, but were soon routed. The men at this time were formed, and lying on the ground they were to occupy in case of an attack, and were ordered to, and did im-