

road from Montreal and other places in the lower province, carrying provisions and military stores to Kingston, York, Niagara, and other parts in the upper province. But where all these provisions came from, I am not able to say.

About this time in December, the British also were making preparations to assemble a large force at Kingston, in order to cross the lower end of Lake Ontario on the ice, and if possible to destroy the American vessels laying at Sacket's Harbour, which they considered as powerful and dangerous: and to effect this, they were determined to lay out all their strength, or all that they possibly could spare, for that business.*

In the month of December about one hundred and twenty ship carpenters came from the lower province to Kingston and York, in order to build seven vessels on Lake Ontario. The government expected to have them finished by the time the ice was out of the lake; which seven, with four that were then nearly fit for use, would make a fleet of eleven sail, which, it was

* Some time in February, information reached the United States that the Governour of the lower province had arrived at Kingston with 5000 troops, which together with what was stationed there, and with what might be collected of the militia round about would make an army of 9000 strong; and I have wondered why they did not make an attempt while the ice was strong; but, as it was not done, I am inclined to believe that the militia would not go over for that purpose, as the law does not oblige them.