

plegarth's, Hatts' and Durand's companies of the 5th Lincoln, a few troopers of Merritt's provincial dragoons, and the remnants of the two companies of the 49th and three of the York militia engaged in the morning, probably numbering in all rather more than 800 of all ranks, exclusive of the Indians, who certainly did not exceed one hundred.

As the enemy's forces appeared to be still considerably more numerous than his own, and they were busily engaged in fortifying their position in evident anticipation of another direct attack from below, the British commander determined to leave Holeroff's two guns, supported by a detachment of infantry, to occupy the village, and prevent the passage of reinforcements while, with the remainder of his troops, he moved around their flank, ascending the heights in rear of the woods already occupied by the Indians, and formed a junction with the column advancing from Chippawa, which would increase his numerical strength by 150 men. Although this manoeuvre would compel him to make a *détour* of nearly three miles before engaging, he would at once escape the enfilading fire of the batteries at Lewiston, avoid the steep ascent in the face of the enemy, render their fieldworks useless, and place his men on an equal footing with them on the open and level ground above.

The Indians redoubled their activity as the column approached, keeping, however, well under cover, and thoroughly succeeded in baffling any attempt to harass its advance. Within an hour Sheaff's gained the cleared ground on the right of the woods occupied by them, extending as far as the portage road, when he beheld Captain Richard Bullock advancing from Chippawa with his own company of the 41st, and Captain Robert Hamilton's and John Rowe's companies of the 2nd Lincoln, strengthened for the occasion, like most of the others, by a number of volunteers from the ranks of the sedentary militia. Foremost among other aged men properly exempt from service, whom the emergency had impelled to seize their arms again, was Lieut.-Col. Ralfe Clench, once an officer in Butler's rangers, and then the district judge, who had retired from command of the 1st Lincoln battalion a few years before, owing to infirmity.

The combined force, numbering about 930 officers and men, was