

batteries as soon as ever the naval engagement began, that Downie was persuaded to make his attempt; that, had the army attacked, the American squadron must have quitted their anchorage, especially the gunboats that lay close to the shore; and that, had the batteries been stormed even after the termination of the naval action, the British squadron must have been recovered, and the American squadron might have been captured also, for the American vessels were so disabled as to be incapable of taking possession of the *Confiance* and the *Linnet* for fully three hours after the fight was over.

Recall of
Prevost
to answer
Yeo's
charges

The government decided that these charges must be communicated to Prevost, and that he should be brought home to answer them. Lord Bathurst wrote to him accordingly on November 26, but the dispatch seems either to have miscarried or not to have been addressed to him direct, for, on the following March 5, Prevost wrote to Bathurst to the effect that he had received through a letter to a junior officer, Sir George Murray,¹ the first intimation of the course which had been taken and of the fact that his commission as Governor had been revoked. The Legislature of Lower Canada was then sitting at Quebec. He closed it in a speech announcing

¹ Prevost's words in his letter to Lord Bathurst of March 5 are—'He (Murray) has communicated to me a letter from your lordship addressed to him, but of which I am the subject'. Major-General Sir George Murray, the distinguished officer who had been the Duke of Wellington's Quartermaster-General in the Peninsula, was sent out at the end of 1814, or early in 1815. He arrived at Quebec on March 2, 1815, by way of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and left for England again on June 10, on hearing of Napoleon's escape from Elba. The notice of him in the *Dictionary of National Biography* says that he was sent out to govern the Canadas; but this is not correct, as it was decided, when Prevost was recalled, that Gordon Drummond should take Prevost's place. Murray went out in a military capacity, being given the local rank of Lieutenant-General. When Drummond took the place of Prevost as Administrator-in-chief, Murray took command of the forces in Upper Canada, and reported to Lord Bathurst on April 25 that, as senior officer of the forces in Upper Canada, he had taken the oaths to administer the government of the province with the title of provisional Lieutenant-Governor.