

CHAPTER VI

OPERATIONS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER: STONEY CREEK AND BEAVER DAMS. 1813

STONEY CREEK.—York, Fort George, and Sackett's Harbour completed the tale of American success on Lake Ontario. Good use had been made of superior forces and British mistakes. The American loss had been small, especially when compared with that of the British, who could ill afford to lose even an equal number. Only 150 men, as against 500 British, was the price of taking Fort George. Dearborn had then pursued Vincent, with the intention of driving a wedge in between him and Procter. So far, so good. But lack of local and general cohesion soon turned the tables. The plan of campaign had already been spoilt by not striking at Kingston, by not holding York, and by not co-ordinating the Lake Ontario attacks with those on Lake Erie. Moreover, all these attacks together were not co-ordinated with the combined operations against Montreal, which themselves broke down for want of cohesion between their disunited parts.

Dearborn did not follow up his success at Fort George on the 27th of May with sufficient vigour. Vincent was at Burlington two days later; and it was not till another week had passed that Chandler and Winder arrived at Stoney Creek with a force of 3000 Americans designed to push in either between Vincent and the West or Vincent and York. Meanwhile Chauncey had returned to Sackett's Harbour and had found that after the destruction wrought there he was inferior in strength to Yeo. He then decided not to risk a battle till his new ship was ready. So Dearborn was