

said, "enter into our views with zeal, and I expect a corps of at least five hundred in eight days." Estimating his own effective force at 1000 and that of the British blockading him at 1600, he inquired: "Will you make a sweep of them or not, at the hazard of the main object?"

On the 19th, a number of schooners and large boats arrived from Oswego for the conveyance of Boyd's division. Chauncey had sailed from Sackett's Harbor on the 17th, but was driven back by a storm. Next day he sailed again, and sighted the British squadron with its convoy on its way up the lake. But he made no attempt to intercept it, for the Secretary of War had come to Sackett's Harbor on purpose to supervise the operations of the army, and had said: "Let not the great objects of the campaign be hazarded by running after Yeo. These accomplished, his race is run. Kingston or the point below seized, all above perishes, because the tree is then girdled."

Yeo for his part, encumbered with transports and siege guns, was only too glad to pursue his course unmolested. The American fleet arrived at Niagara on the 23rd, and two days later 1,500 men were embarked, but a strong easterly gale prevented them from sailing. On the 26th the weather again became fair and the troops were in readiness, but Wilkinson had learned by that time that "the tantalizing Sir James Yeo was in shore with his fleet on the evening of the 24th about twenty-eight miles east of York." Chauncey sent two light vessels to reconnoitre, which reported seeing the British squadron in Toronto Bay. The American fleet of eleven ships of war sailed out of the river early on the morning of the 28th, and shortly afterwards the British squadron was descried beating across the lake. Any movement of troops down the lake in the face of a hostile squadron was out of the question, and Chauncey went out to meet it. Yeo lay to about twelve miles away and awaited the attack. Again Chauncey had the wind in his favor and was able to choose his distance. Firing began about noon, and within a quarter of an hour a lucky shot from one of the *Pike's* long guns carried away the main topmast of the *Wolfe*, which in its fall brought down the mizzen topmast and main yard. The flag-ship became quite unmanageable on a wind, and to save her Yeo was obliged to put before a strong gale, which had begun to blow, towards Burlington Bay. His flight was nobly covered by the *Royal George*, commanded by Captain (afterwards Sir W. H.) Mulcaster. "This vessel," says Mr. Cooper, "kept yawing athwart the English Commodore's stern and delivering her broadsides in a manner to extort exclamations of delight from the American fleet."* A running fight was continued in this manner for up-

* History of the U. S. Navy, vol. II, p. 374