

Rock in the river, and further delay was occasioned by the necessity of protecting it in these directions. Deserters continued to arrive daily from the garrison, from whom some important information was obtained mingled, however, with much that was false and exaggerated.

Already the besiegers were considerably distressed for want of provisions and military stores, owing to the difficulties of transport and the blockade of their vessels in the Niagara. Finding that there was little prospect of accomplishing any further service on Lake Ontario for some time, Captain Dobbs joined General Drummond with two hundred seamen and marines. The remainder of De Watteville's Regiment was also ordered up from Fort George with the intention of attempting an assault as soon as a breach was declared practicable, the battalion companies of the 41st being sent away to replace them in that garrison. The appearance of the American squadron, however, caused the detention of the 82d Regiment at York and Burlington for the protection of those places.

General Gaines continued to strengthen his works and materially increased his force by calling in small detachments from the nearest military posts. A resolute attempt was also made to assemble an auxiliary force of Indians and militia. On July 29th General Peter B. Porter had attended a meeting of Indian chiefs at Buffalo at which he urged them to exert their influence to induce their warriors to rejoin the American army, and succeeded in persuading them to send messages to that effect to all the neighbouring villages. In consequence a considerable number of Indians assembled in Buffalo on August 7th, but although they announced their willingness to remain at Black Rock for the defence of that place, they steadfastly declined to cross the Niagara.

Meantime the most moving appeals had been addressed to the Governor of the State of New York to despatch a strong force of militia to the relief of the beleaguered garrison.

"Is it possible," General Porter wrote on August 9th, "that the State of New York will sit with her arms folded and see this army, deserving a better fate, sacrificed? With 3,000 men, which, had there been any patriotism in the country, would have been with us before this time, we should not only be relieved but we might *with certainty* capture the whole British army in thirty days."

A few days later the first draft of one thousand men from Major-General Hall's division, under Lieut.-Colonel Micah Brooks, actually arrived in Buffalo, but steadfastly declined to cross the river under any circumstances. The old batteries on the high bank of the river above Black Rock were repaired and armed with long guns to