

by a sentry who was promptly shot down as he attempted to escape. When half way across the second bridge another sentry fired at them and was also shot. Several shots were fired from houses and an inhabitant who was detected while deliberately taking aim through a window, was killed in the act. After a few minutes delay, they were informed by a resident that the garrison, consisting of one company of the Troy Volunteers, had been warned of their approach by Indian scouts, and had shut themselves up in the blockhouse, which was not yet roofed in. It was quickly surrounded and three officers and forty-one men surrendered as prisoners of war. Three bateaux and fifty-seven stand of arms were taken. In defiance of the strictest orders the Indians managed to break open and plunder several houses, one of them being owned by the man who had acted as guide and carried a summons to the blockhouse. Gray at once proffered compensation which was paid two months later to the amount of several hundred dollars, being in all probability much in excess of the real loss. The captured bateaux were sunk, the arms broken up and the expedition recrossed the river without loss.*

After his arrival at Plattsburg, Dearborn discharged the whole of his militia, whose numbers had already considerably decreased through desertion. Three regiments of regular infantry under Colonel Pike were quartered at Plattsburg; three others commanded by Brigadier General Chandler were stationed at Burlington, while the cavalry and artillery were withdrawn to Greenbush. Although it was afterwards acknowledged that his movement to the frontier and beyond had been solely intended as a demonstration and was so interpreted by his opponent, his confident tone and the strength of his force had aroused extravagant expectations among his countrymen. The editor of the *Aurora*, of Philadelphia, Colonel Duane, one of the most influential and presumably best informed of the journalists supporting the administration, had remarked, so late as November 23:—

“The army must have entered the enemy’s country about the 20th, and three days will have brought the troops to conflict unless the British make war like the Russians. The gallantry and fidelity of the militia, Green Mountain Boys and brave New Yorkers, will save them from the reproach hitherto cast upon the boasted bulwark of the republic by the brutality and cowardice displayed by idle spectators at Queenston, and put to shame the treachery and faithlessness of neighbors in Massachusetts.”

Dearborn’s apparently inexplicable retreat without even fairly coming to blows evoked the most caustic criticism from friends as well

*Gray to Baynes, Nov. 23; Prevost to Bathurst, Nov. 26; Prevost to the Duke of York, Nov. 30; York (U.C.) Gazette, 1812.