

calculated to promote, as well the honor of his Majesty's arms, as the safety of this part of his dominions.

"I herewith transmit a comparative state of the force of the two squadrons, in order that your lordship may be satisfied with my reasons for not discouraging a naval engagement, in which, if all had done their duty*, I should have had a very different report to make.

"I have the honor to be," &c.

"The right hon. earl Bathurst."

* This was not intended as any reflection on the late captain Downie. It is explained by the following extract from James's Naval Memoirs, p. 411, shewing the opinion of the american naval commander, as to the result of the action on Lake Champlain:—

"Commodore Macdonough, taking lieutenant Robertson, when presenting his sword, for the british commanding officer, spoke to him as follows:—'You owe it, Sir, to the shameful conduct of your gun-boats and cutters, that you are performing this office to me; for, had they done their duty, you must have perceived, from the situation of the Saratoga, that I could hold out no longer: and indeed, nothing induced me to keep up her colours, but seeing, from the united fire of all the rest of my squadron on the Confiance, and her unsupported situation, that she must ultimately surrender.'—Here is an acknowledgment, candid and honourable in the extreme."—Lieutenants Rayot and McGee, both officers of the royal navy, and in charge of the gun-boats, did not after their discreditable flight on this occasion, presume to shew themselves again in Canada, and not appearing subsequently in England to take their trial, were struck off the navy list.