

up a station off Gravelly Point which he kept until the appearance of the sky induced him to run for shelter to Sackett's Harbour, where he arrived on the morning of the 11th, barely in time to escape a heavy gale from the west accompanied by snow.<sup>1</sup>

Urgent orders were then received from the Secretary of War directing him to supply transportation for a brigade of infantry from Niagara to Sackett's Harbour for the protection of that port, which had been nearly denuded of its garrison and was presumed to be in some danger of attack. Sailing thence with a fair wind he arrived off Niagara on the evening of the 14th and sent all his squadron except his flagship into the river to facilitate the embarkation of troops and stores. This was accomplished before night on the 16th and the whole got away on the return voyage. The wind soon increased to a gale blowing strong from the east with heavy rain and snow. The squadron was dispersed and driven toward the head of the lake. Most of the schooners made for the mouth of the river again. One got in safely, another carried away her rudder in crossing the bar, a third was driven ashore and some of her crew perished. Others were tossed about at the mercy of the waves and fired guns of distress all night. The *Julia* succeeded in coming to anchor close to the entrance of Burlington Bay where she succeeded in riding out the storm. Large fires were kept burning near the forts for the guidance of the pilots. The *Madison* and *Oneida* ran for shelter toward Toronto Bay but to their surprise found the entrance strongly fortified and beat back to the mouth of the Niagara where they arrived on the morning of the 20th. Several seamen had been swept overboard and lost but the vessels sustained little injury. At midnight the wind suddenly changed to westward and the *Pike* and *Sylph* ran at once for Sackett's Harbour arriving there on the evening of the 30th. Next day the *Oneida* and four of the schooners which had taken refuge in the Niagara came in.

"The troops and seamen suffered extremely," Chauncey wrote, "as they were wet from the commencement of the gale until their arrival here. The water was so deep on the berth deck that we were obliged to scuttle it to let the water off, yet the men arrived in better health than could have been expected."<sup>2</sup>

The smaller vessels were immediately laid up and arrangements made for quartering the seamen on shore. The army had then gone into winter quarters and all expectations of an advance upon Montreal apparently abandoned.

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<sup>1</sup> Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, Nov. 11.

<sup>2</sup> John F. Bacon to Governor Tompkins, Fort George, Nov. 21; Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, Sackett's Harbour, Nov. 21.