

## CHAPTER VIII

### OPERATIONS ON THE MONTREAL FRONTIER: CHÂTEAUGUAY AND CHRYSTLER'S FARM. 1813

**C**HÂTEAUGUAY.—After the successful British raid on Lake Champlain at the beginning of August the American general, Hampton, completed his preparations and crossed over to Plattsburg. On the 20th of September he crossed the frontier at Odelltown with over 7000 men on his way to join Wilkinson, who, with about the same number, was to meet him on the St. Lawrence, take command of the whole 14,000, and attack Montreal. The point of junction was to be either St. Regis or Châteauguay, that is, the Canadian settlement of Châteauguay, at the mouth of the Châteauguay River, and not La Fourche de la Rivière Châteauguay, where the battle of the Châteauguay was fought. Hampton's heart was not in the campaign. He resented Wilkinson's leadership. He was not enthusiastic about Wilkinson's plan. And he had already reported his intention of resigning as soon as the operations were over. Still, he was punctuality itself compared with Wilkinson, who was far too late in leaving Sackett's Harbour. The want of combination grew worse as time wore on, and when Wilkinson did badly Hampton did worse.

From Odelltown Hampton marched to the Châteauguay, whence he would have a line of advance along its northern bank to its mouth at Châteauguay near Montreal. But he made a false start in another direction first, which gave De Salaberry ample time to intercept him. De Salaberry was the same commanding officer of the Voltigeurs who had been