

their other vessels, made their fleet to consist of the following force : Detroit, (new ship) nineteen guns ; Queen Charlotte, seventeen guns ; Lady Prevost, thirteen guns ; Hunter, ten guns ; Little Belt, three, and the Chippewa, one ; total, sixty-three guns. The American force consisted of the following : Lawrence and Niagara, precisely alike, twenty guns each ; Ariel, four ; Scorpion, two ; Porcupine, one ; Tigris, one ; Caledonia, three ; Somers, two ; Tripp, one ; total, fifty-four guns.

The Fleet was manned by sailors partly from Newport, and partly from Lake Ontario. The two larger vessels, Lawrence and Niagara, were built and rigged precisely alike, and carried 132 officers and men, each. By the 10th of July, the guns were mounted on board all the vessels, and the men were exercised at them, several times a day.

On Sunday, the 18th of July, two respectable missionaries who were passing through Erie, were invited by the Commodore on board one of the large ships, where as many officers and men as could be spared from all the vessels were assembled to hear prayers that were offered up for the success of the expedition. I shall never forget their fervent pleadings in our behalf, that we might subdue the hostile fleet, and thereby wrest from savage hands the tomahawk and scalping-knife, that had been so cruelly wielded against the defenceless settlers on the frontiers ; and that in the event of a victory, mercy and kindness might be shown to the vanquished.

The bar of Erie had thus far served as a fortification to prevent the enemy from entering the harbor where our fleet was preparing, but it now presented a serious obstacle to our egress. The two large brigs drew three feet of water more than there was on the bar. On Sunday evening, the 1st August, the work began of clearing the Lawrence of cannon and balls, to lighten her ; and immense scows called camels were placed under her sides, and being sunk to the water's edge, timbers were passed through from side to side of the ship, the ends of which were blocked up, resting on these floating foundations. Plugs were now put into the scows, and the water bailed out, and as they rose they lifted the ship two feet, and this not being enough, the ballast and other heavy articles were taken out, till she was