

been for some time wavering and appalled by the specious show of the enemy's resources, will instantly rally round the standard of their King and country."

Lieut.-Colonel John Harvey, a very able and enterprising young officer of considerable military experience in many climes, who had lately joined General Vincent's division as Deputy Adjutant General, earnestly advised that accurate information of the enemy's numbers and designs should lie secured at any cost, and then "by a series of both active and offensive movements, they should be thrown on the defensive, no matter how superior their numbers might be." Had the whole of the 8th Regiment arrived in time this might have been accomplished, but two of its companies had been nearly annihilated at York, and the march of the remainder very much delayed by the attack on that place.

As late, however, as the 20th of May, we find Lieut.-Colonel Myers writing to the Adjutant General in these terms: "It is not wise to hold an enemy too cheap, but I cannot divest myself of the idea that the foe opposite is despicable and that it would be no hard task to dislodge him from the entire of his lines on the Niagara river. With some subordinate attacks upon his flanks, I am of opinion that it would be an enterprise of little hazard for us to get an establishment on the heights above Lewiston, opposite Queenston. This once effected, I cannot but feel" the strongest confidence that we would in a short time affect the object so much to be desired. It would be giving such a turn to the war that I conceive it would strike terror to the enemy, which would produce the happiest effects"

The return of the American fleet with a numerous body of regular troops on board put an end to these rather fantastic schemes of conquest. At daybreak on the 21st no less than seventeen armed vessels and upwards of one hundred Durham boats and bateaux were assembled in the shallow but landlocked and commodious haven at the mouth of the Four Mile Creek in rear of Fort Niagara, from which several thousand men were speedily disembarked.

For several days these, troops paraded ostentatiously in plain view, probably in the hope of overawing their opponents by the display of numbers. Many workmen were seen at the same time busily occupied in constructing new batteries along the river and building boats. Reinforcements continued to arrive daily until it was supposed that about seven thousand soldiers were encamped between Lewiston and Fort Niagara. This force was composed almost wholly of regular troops that had been in service for some time and included nine of the best regiments of infantry in the United States army. They were accompanied by a strong regiment of heavy artillery, well appointed field train and a battalion of dragoons.

Major-General Henry Dearborn, who was in command, had distinguished himself in the "Revolutionary War, during which he had commanded a regiment in Arnold's expedition against Quebec, at Saratoga, and in Sullivan's campaign against the Six Nations. Bathe was now past sixty years of age and in ill-health. He had not been employed in military service for thirty years, and had grown so corpulent that he could scarcely mount a horse. For field operations he accordingly provided himself with a light open spring wagon, which was called a "Dearborn" in his honor by the maker, and generally known by that name for some years.

The Secretary of War had warned him to be careful to employ a sufficient force to ensure success. Seven thousand men was the number deemed requisite. "If the first step in the campaign fails," he wrote plaintively, "our disgrace will be complete. The public