

Early on the 21st the American army crossed the line of separation between Lower Canada and the United States, surprised a small party of Indian warriors, and drove in a picquet of Sedentary Militia, posted at the junction of the Outard and Chateauguay Rivers, where it encamped, and proceeded in establishing a road of communication with its last position, for the purpose of bringing forward its artillery.

Major-General Hampton having completed his arrangements on the 24th, commenced on the following day his operations against my advanced posts: at about eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 26th, his cavalry and light troops were discovered advancing on both banks of the Chateauguay, by a detachment covering a working party of *habitans* employed in felling timber, for the purpose of constructing abbatis. Lieut.-Col. De Salaberry who had the command of the advanced picquets, composed of the light infantry company of the Canadian Fencibles, and two companies of Voltigeurs, on the north side of the river, made so excellent a disposition of his little band, that he checked the advance of the enemy's principal column, led by Major-General Hampton in person, and accompanied by Brigadier-General Izard; whilst the American light brigade, under Colonel M'Carty, was in like manner repulsed in its progress on the south side of the river, by the spirited advance of the right flank company of the third battalion of the embodied militia, under Captain Daly, supported by Captain Bruyer's company of Chateauguay chasseurs; Captains Daly and Bruyers being both wounded, and their companies having sustained some loss, their position was immediately taken up by a flank company of the first battalion of embodied militia; the enemy rallied and repeatedly returned to the attack, which terminated only with the day, in his complete disgrace and defeat; being forced at all points by a handful of men, who by their determined bravery maintained their position, and screened from insult the working parties, who continued their labours unconcerned.

Having fortunately arrived at the scene of action shortly after its commencement, I witnessed the conduct of the troops on this glorious occasion, and it was a great satisfaction to me to render on the spot that praise which had become so justly their due. I thanked Major-General De Watteville for the wise measures taken by him for the defence of his position, the advance, and Lieutenant-Colonel De Salaberry, for the judgment displayed by him in the choice of his ground, and the bravery and skill with which he maintained it; I acknowledged the highest praise to belong to the officers and men engaged that morning, for their gallantry and steadiness, and I called upon all the troops in advance for a continuance of that zeal, steadiness, and discipline, as for that patient endurance of hardships and privations which they have hitherto evinced; and I particularly noticed the able support Lieutenant-Colonel De Salaberry received from Captain Ferguson, in command of the light company of the Canadian Fencibles, and from Captain J. B. Duchesnay and Captain J. Duchesnay, and Adjutant Hebden, of the voltigeurs, and also from Adjutant O'Sullivan, of the Sedentary Militia, and

from Captain La Motte, belonging to the Indian warriors.

Almost the whole of the British troops being pushed forward for the defence of Upper Canada, that of the lower province must depend, in a great degree, on the valour and continued exertions of its incorporated battalions and its sedentary militia, until the 70th regiment and the two battalions of marines, daily expected, arrive. It is, therefore, highly satisfactory to state to your Lordship, that there appears a determination among all classes of His Majesty's Canadian subjects, to persevere in a loyal and honourable line of conduct.

By the report of prisoners taken from the enemy in the affair on the Chateauguay, the American force is stated at 7,000 infantry and 200 cavalry, with ten field-pieces. The British advanced force, actually engaged, did not exceed 300. The enemy suffered severely from our fire, and from their own; some detached corps in the woods fired upon each other.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, a return of the killed and wounded on the 26th.—I avail myself of this opportunity humbly to solicit from His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, as a mark of his gracious approbation of the conduct of the embodied battalion of the Canadian militia, five pair of colours for the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th battalions.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST

Return of killed, wounded, and missing, of His Majesty's forces, in action with the enemy, in advance of Chateauguay, on the 26th October 1813.

Canadian Fencible Infantry, Light Company—3 rank and file, killed; 1 serjeant, 3 rank and file, wounded.

3d batt. Embodied Militia, Flank Company—2 rank and file killed; 1 captain, 6 rank and file wounded; 4 rank and file missing.

Chateauguay Chasseurs—1 captain wounded.

Total—5 rank and file, killed; 2 captains, 1 serjeant, 13 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file, missing.

Names of Officers wounded.

3d batt. Embodied Militia—Captain Daly, twice wounded, severely.

Chateauguay Chasseurs—Captain Bruyers, slightly.
(Signed) EDWARD BAYNES,
Adjutant-General.

Head-Quarters, Montreal,

My Lord, October 30, 1813.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship in my dispatch of the 22d of September last, I have received the enclosed communication from Major-General Proctor. I have however been informed from other quarters, that he commenced his retreat from Sandwich on the 24th of that month, having previously dismantled the posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and totally destroyed the public buildings and stores of every descriptioⁿ.