

Isle (now Erie), to hasten the equipment of a little squadron then in process of construction there. \* \* \* \*

“ Captain Perry’s fleet was completed and finished on the tenth of July, but, alas, he had only men enough to officer and man one of the brigs, and he was compelled to lie idle in the harbor of Erie, an unwilling witness of the insolent menaces of the enemy on the open lake.”

On the nineteenth, “ in the bitterness of a mortified spirit, Captain Perry wrote to Commodore Chauncey, his chief, saying: ‘ The enemy’s fleet of six sail is now off the bar of this harbor [Presqu’ Isle]. What a golden opportunity, if we had men ! Their object is, no doubt, either to blockade or attack us, or to carry provisions or reinforcements to Malden. Should it be to attack us, we are ready to meet them. I am constantly looking to the eastward ; every mail and every traveler from that quarter is looked to as the harbinger of the glad tidings of our men being on the way. \* \* \* \*’

“ ‘ Give me men, sir, and I will acquire both for you and myself honor and glory on this lake, or perish in the attempt. ; Conceive my feelings : an enemy within striking distance, my vessels ready, and not men enough to man them. Going out with those I now have is out of the question. You would not suffer it were you here. Think of my situation : the enemy in sight, the vessels under my command more than sufficient and ready to make sail, and [I] obliged to bite my fingers with vexation for want of men.’ \* \* \* \*’

“ On the ninth of August, the squadron was joined at Erie by Captain Jesse D. Elliott, who brought with him about one hundred officers and superior men.”

The vessels with which Captain Perry went into the memorable action on the lake, on the tenth of September, were the brig *Lawrence*, carrying twenty guns ; the brig *Niagara*, Captain Jesse D. Elliott, twenty guns ; the brig *Caledonia*, Captain Daniel Turner, three guns ; the brig *Somers*, Sailing-master Thomas C. Almy, two guns ; the schooner *Ariel*, Lieutenant John H. Packet, four guns ; the schooner *Tigress*, Lieutenant Augustus H. M. Conklin, one gun ; the schooner *Scorpion*, Sailing-master Stephen Champlin, two guns ; the schooner *Porcupine*, Midshipman George Senat, one gun ; and the sloop *Trippe*, Lieutenant Thomas Holdup, one gun ; the whole number of mounted guns being fifty-four.

The British fleet, under the command of Captain Robert H. Barclay, who had served with Nelson at Trafalgar, comprised the flagship *Detroit*, nineteen guns ; the *Queen Charlotte*, seventeen guns ; the *Lady Prevost*, thirteen guns ; the brig *Hunter*, ten guns ; the sloop *Little Belt*, three guns ; the schooner *Chippeway*, one gun ; in all sixty-three guns, not counting several swivels.

The officers and cadets on the United States flagship *Lawrence* were Oliver H. Perry, captain commanding ; John J. Yarnall, lieutenant ; Dulany Forrest,